

# Coupled effects of Mn(ii), pH and anionic ligands on the reactivity of nanostructured birnessite

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#### 21 Abstract

While the oxidative capacity of nanostructured birnessite-type manganese oxide has been 22 widely investigated, no comprehensive work exists on the combined effects of dissolved Mn(II), 23 pH and inorganic anions on sorption and redox reactions of organic contaminants with MnO<sub>2</sub>. 24 Herein, we have showed how molecular interactions of two contrasting organic contaminants, 25 26 Pipemidic acid (PIP) and Bisphenol A (BPA), with MnO<sub>2</sub> surfaces controlled on the removal kinetic behavior, which depended on contaminant type and co-existing anions. Competition 27 28 between contaminant and Mn(II) for binding at the edge sites determined the initial kinetic step, 29 while buildup of Mn(II) at both edge and vacancy sites continuously decreased adsorption and 30 subsequent oxidation over time. Redox interactions of Mn(II) to MnO<sub>2</sub> surfaces was a pH 31 dependent process, and high pH favored Mn(II) removal and comproportionation reaction, thus decreasing adsorption and oxidation processes. At low Mn(II)/MnO2 ratio, MnO2 adsorbed more 32 effectively anions such as phosphate or silicate, thus reducing interactions with organic 33 compounds. These results highlight the combined suppressive effects of Mn(II), pH and naturally 34 occurring anions on the reactivity of nanostructured birnessite, and have strong implications on the 35 fate of organic contaminants in terrestrial and aquatic environments. 36

37 Keywords: nanostructured birnessite; redox; emerging contaminants; adsorption; oxidation.

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Dissolved Mn(II), pH and naturally occurring anions exhibit combined suppressive effects on the
 reactivity of nanostructured birnessite.



## 43 **1. Introduction**

Manganese oxide / hydroxide (referred here as Mn oxide) are ubiquitous in a wide range of 44 environmental settings, such as soils, sediments, rock dendrites, desert varnishes, ocean floor, and 45 fresh-water bodies.<sup>1, 2</sup> Because they are powerful oxidants and sorbents, they play a key role in the 46 biogeochemical cycle of many elements.<sup>1</sup> Based on the mineral structure, manganese oxides can 47 be divided into two types: layer and tunnel structure.<sup>1</sup> Layered structure manganese oxides (e.g. 48 birnessite) has gathered interest because it is structurally similar to biogenically precipitated natural 49 manganese oxides.<sup>3-6</sup> The structure of layered birnessite consists of mineral sheets of hexagonal 50 symmetry comprising of edge-sharing MnO<sub>6</sub> octahedra, accompanied by interlayer charge-51 neutralizing cations.<sup>3, 7-10</sup> Because of the existence of Mn(III) and possibly Mn(II) within the MnO<sub>2</sub> 52 layers, it has a manganese average oxidation state (AOS) lower than 4.11 Typically, birnessite have 53 high affinity for cations sorption because of high content of vacancy sites, with up to one out of six 54 Mn absent from MnO<sub>6</sub> octahedral sites,<sup>12, 13</sup> but they also exhibit non-negligible anion adsorption 55 capacity.<sup>14-18</sup> Another important feature of birnessite is the easy switching of the oxidation state, 56 which imparts a good catalytic activity.<sup>10, 19</sup>Therefore, nanostructured birnessite-type manganese 57 oxides take part in redox-based and cation-exchange reactions with potential for various energy 58 and environmental applications.<sup>1, 20-25</sup> 59

Generally, binding of redox-active compounds to birnessite is followed by an electron transfer process resulting in the concomitant oxidation of sorbed compound and reduction of surface-bound metal. Typically, one electron is transferred from ligand to the surface-bound Mn(IV) to yield Mn(III) that can be further reduced to give Mn(II).<sup>17, 23, 24, 26, 27</sup> This reactivity is mainly affected by solution pH, oxide surface properties, and structural characteristics of target compound.<sup>23, 24, 28-30</sup> Some studies have shown that the presence of dissolved Mn(II) induces

changes in mineral structure and reactivity of MnO<sub>2</sub>, but this effect depends on the Mn(II)/MnO<sub>2</sub> 66 ratio and pH value. A high Mn(II)/MnO<sub>2</sub> ratio and pH > 7.5, birnessite can be converted into lower-67 valence Mn phases, while only slight disturbance in the stacking of MnO<sub>2</sub> sheets caused by 68 incorporation of Mn(III) can be observed at low Mn(II)/MnO<sub>2</sub> ratio and at acidic to neutral pH.<sup>31,</sup> 69 70 <sup>32</sup> Although the effects of dissolved Mn(II) on the structure and AOS of birnessite have been well investigated,<sup>5, 17,31-34</sup> knowledge is limited on how co-existing anions and dissolved Mn(II) affect 71 the dynamic changes of birnessite reactivity towards adsorption and oxidation of organic 72 compounds. In addition, surface interactions of organic ligands with MnO<sub>2</sub> in the presence of 73 dissolved Mn(II) and naturally occurring anions during birnessite partial reduction under a wide 74 75 range of pH have been scarcely investigated.

In this study, we examined how dissolved Mn(II), which is commonly found in 76 groundwater from µM to mM concentration ranges<sup>35,36</sup> affects the interactions of organic 77 compounds with MnO<sub>2</sub> surfaces and the reactivity of birnessite under different experimental 78 conditions. For this purpose, two contrasting organic contaminants, Pipemidic acid (PIP) and 79 Bisphenol A (BPA), frequently detected in aquatic environments such as surface water and 80 groundwater<sup>37-39</sup> were selected as environmentally relevant model compounds. PIP is a synthetic 81 broad-spectrum antibacterial belonging to quinolone antibiotics, and widely used to treat various 82 infections in human and veterinary medicine.<sup>25</sup> Quinolones are electron donor-acceptor 83 compounds with the piperazinyl group serving as the electron donor and carboxylic group as the 84 electron acceptor in the neutral and zwitterion forms.<sup>27, 40</sup> Bisphenol A is an important endocrine-85 86 disrupting compound, and contains two hydroxyphenyl functionalities. Nanoflower-shaped birnessite, a poorly crystalline Mn oxide and ubiquitous in nature, was chosen as a representative 87 manganese oxide mineral. The surface interactions of PIP or BPA including adsorption and 88

oxidation with birnessite have been investigated in presence of variable amounts of Mn(II) and 89 under a wide range of pH (4-8). Total removal rates including the rate-determining step have been 90 determined using different kinetic models. The oxidation byproducts of BPA and PIP were 91 identified using Ultraperformance Liquid Chromatography-tandem Mass Spectrometry (UPLC-92 93 MS/MS) system. The impact of Mn(II) was also studied in presence of commonly found natural anions, phosphate and silicate. The possible transformation of solid has been monitored using XRD 94 and ATR-FTIR under different conditions (Mn(II)/MnO<sub>2</sub> ratio and pH value). Finally, the 95 reactivity changes of birnessite due to the combined effects of Mn(II), pH and anionic ligands and 96 underlying mechanisms were discussed. 97

#### 98 2. Materials and Methods

99 2.1. Materials

100 All reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used without further purification. All 101 solutions were prepared with ultrapure water (specific resistivity, 18.2 M $\Omega$  cm<sup>-1</sup>, Milli-Q, 102 Millipore).

## 103 2.2. Acid birnessite synthesis and characterization

Acid birnessite was prepared following the procedures of McKenzie.<sup>41</sup> 166 mL of concentrated HCl was added dropwise to 2.5 L of 0.4 M KMnO<sub>4</sub>. The suspension was stirred vigorously and kept at 90°C during the HCl addition. The reaction was continued at 90 °C for a further 10 min. Then, the obtained slurry was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 15 h. The precipitate was collected by centrifugation, washed with ultrapure water repeatedly until the conductivity was close to 0.6  $\mu$ S cm<sup>-1</sup>. The suspensions were stored in polypropylene containers at 4 °C for further use.

The purity of acid birnessite was confirmed by powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) (Figure 111 S1). The XRD data were recorded with the monochromatized  $CuK\alpha$  radiation on a Bruker AXS 112 D8 Advance diffractometer ( $\theta$ -2 $\theta$  Bragg-Brentano geometry) over the range of 10°-100° 2 $\theta$  at a 113 step size of 0.02°. The N<sub>2</sub> Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) specific surface area of the synthetic 114 acid birnessite was  $65 \pm 1 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ . The Average Oxidation State (AOS= 3.98 (±0.02)) of synthetic 115 birnessite was measured using the oxalic acid-permanganate back-titration method (more details 116 are provided in the Supporting Information (SI)). Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM; JEOL 117 JSM-7100F) and High-resolution Transmission Electron Microscope (HRTEM; JEOL 2100 LaB<sub>6</sub>) 118 images showed a nanoflower-shaped birnessite consisting of nanoflakes aggregations (see Figures 119 120 S2 and S3).

121 2.3. Adsorption/oxidation batch experiments

For all experiments, NaCl concentration was set to 10 mM. The pH was adjusted to the desired values using additions of 0.1M HCl or 0.1M NaOH solution and maintained constant throughout the experiments. Before experiments, acid birnessite was sonicated 5 min for better dispersion.

126 Batch experiments were carried out under ambient conditions. Solutions were spiked with aliquots of 1 mM PIP or BPA to achieve initial concentration of 20 µM. An Aqueous suspension 127 of acid birnessite (870  $\mu$ M) was employed, and the effect of dissolved Mn(II) was investigated by 128 adding small amounts of 0.05 M MnCb solution. In the simultaneous experiments, PIP or BPA, 129 acid birnessite and MnCl<sub>2</sub> solution were mixed at the same time. In the pre-equilibrium or 130 sequential experiments, suspensions containing manganese oxides and MnCl<sub>2</sub> were stirred for a 131 certain time (2 h or 24 h) before adding PIP. The agitation speed of the mixture was stirred at 300 132 rpm during the experiments at room temperature. Aliquots of solution were periodically withdrawn 133

and filtered  $(0.2 \ \mu m)$  for compound analysis. Other aliquots without filtration were immediately mixed with NaOH or ascorbic acid to quench the reaction and release eventual sorbed compounds. The same procedure was applied to test the effect of Mn(II) in the presence of anions (silicate or phosphate) on PIP oxidation.

Mn(II)-birnessite isotherm experiments were performed at pH 4, 5.5, 7.5, 8 (±0.1) under 138 oxic conditions. The experiments were employed in 50 mL polyethylene tubes at a total volume of 139 50 mL solution using the same acid birnessite suspension density (870 µM) and initial aqueous 140 Mn(II) concentrations in the range of 0 to 2000  $\mu$ M. The tubes were sealed by caps and then shaken 141 continuously at 200 rpm. During the equilibration time, the pH was adjusted to maintain the initial 142 value. After 2 days of equilibration, the samples were centrifuged for 30 min at 4500 rpm. The 143 supernatants were filtered through 0.2 µm membranes, while the centrifuged wet pastes of the acid 144 birnessite obtained were analyzed by Attenuated Total Reflectance Fourier Transform Infrared 145 Spectroscopy (ATR-FTIR) (more details are given in the SI). Mn(II) removal was calculated as 146 the difference between the initial and final Mn(II) solution concentrations. To examine the impact 147 of dissolved O<sub>2</sub> on the Mn(II) sorption, parallel experiments with the same process at pH 4 and 5.5 148 149  $(\pm 0.1)$  were conducted in glovebox under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. All experiments were conducted in triplicates and the standard deviation was calculated for all experimental series. 150

151 2.4. Analytical procedures

Aqueous concentrations of PIP or BPA were determined using High Performance Liquid Chromatography analysis with UV–vis detection (HPLC-UV) equipped with a reversed-phase C18 column (250 mm × 4.6 mm i.d., 5  $\mu$ m) and an UV–vis detector (Waters 2489). The mobile phase was a mixture of acetonitrile/water (15/85 v/v, PIP; 65/35 v/v, BPA) containing 0.1% formic acid. The flow rate of mobile phase was set at 0.5 mL/min (PIP) or 0.6 mL/min (BPA). The UV detector

was set to 278 nm for PIP and BPA. Silicate concentrations were determined by the molybdenum-157 blue colorimetric method. <sup>42</sup> Dissolved Mn(II) concentrations in supernatants were determined by 158 Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS, AA140, Varian, Shimadzu). The byproducts of BPA and 159 PIP oxidation were identified using Ultraperformance Liquid Chromatography-tandem Mass 160 161 Spectrometry (UPLC-MS/MS) system. An electrospray interface was used for the MS measurements in positive ionisation mode and full scan acquisition. No quantification has been 162 made by LC/MS because the identified byproducts are not commercially available. ATR-FTIR and 163 XRD were performed to determine the possible transformation of solids upon Mn(II) sorption. 164 More details of these analytical methods are given in the SI. 165

#### 166 **3. Results and Discussion**

## 167 **3.1. Removal kinetics of PIP and BPA with birnessite**

Kinetic batch experiments conducted at pH 5.5 showed complete removal of BPA within 1 168 h of reaction time (Figure 1a). A delay in complete removal was observed when Mn(II) was added 169 to MnO<sub>2</sub> suspension, e.g. 25 h was needed for complete removal with the highest Mn(II) loading 170  $(Mn(II)/MnO_2 = 0.23)$ . Slower removal kinetics were observed for PIP when compared to BPA 171 (Figure 1b). Mass balance showed that adsorption and oxidation are involved in the removal of 172 BPA or PIP in presence of MnO<sub>2</sub> (Figures 1 and S5), even though the adsorption appears to be 173 relatively low under our experimental conditions. The overall removal rate can be dominated by 174 175 either the rate of intrinsic chemical reactions on the surface (adsorption following by oxidation) or the rate of diffusion of the solute to the surface. 176

Pseudo-first-order and pseudo-second-order models were used to describe the removal of BPA and PIP, respectively, after an extensive search for best-fitting kinetic models accounting for these experimental concentration profiles. The pseudo-first-order rate equation is given as:

$$ln\frac{[BPA]_{tot}}{[BPA]_0} = -k_1 t \tag{1}$$

181 The pseudo-second-order equation is expressed as:

182 
$$\frac{1}{[PIP]_{tot}} = \frac{1}{[PIP]_0} + 2k_2t$$
(2)

The pseudo-first-order apparent rate constant  $k_1$  (h<sup>-1</sup>) obtained by linear regression of 183 184 h([BPA]tot /[BPA]o) versus time were plotted against initial Mn(II) amount in Figure 1c. The pseudo-second-order rate constant,  $k_2$  (L µmol<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>), calculated from the slope of the plots of 185 186 1/[PIP]tot -1/[PIP]0 versus t, are given in Figure 1d (regression coefficients for all fitting is greater than 0.92). While a pseudo-first order may suppose no-chemical limiting step, the pseudo-second-187 order model suggests that the chemical reaction may be the rate-limiting step and the adsorption 188 189 occurs probably via surface complexation reactions at specific sorption sites.<sup>43</sup> This falls in line with the PIP chemical structure where metal-bonded complexes with surface sites and/or directly 190 hydrogen-bonded complexes with surface hydroxo groups involving both carboxylate and keto 191 groups are expected based on previous investigations for analogous compounds.<sup>27, 44, 45</sup> At pH 5.5, 192 PIP exists under zwitterionic form (pKa 5.20 and 6.38), whereas the BPA molecule is only in the 193 protonated form (Figure S4). BPA containing only phenolic groups exhibits weaker sorption to 194 metal surfaces through probably Van der Waals interactions and/or hydrogen bonds, but higher 195 removal rate as compared to PIP (Figure 1). If the formation of the precursor complex is the rate-196 197 limiting step, our kinetic comparison let suppose that weaker binding of phenolic compounds are more energetically favorable than the surface complexation of polyfunctional carboxylated 198 compounds. Afterwards, electron exchange of BPA with MnO<sub>2</sub> form a radical, followed by a series 199 200 of reactions including radical coupling, fragmentation, substitution and elimination to form multiple byproducts (up to 11 byproducts have been reported).<sup>20,22,24</sup> Our LC/MS analysis 201

identified one predominant species of mass-to-charge ratio of m/z=135 as the most dominant byproduct of BPA over the first reaction time (1 h), which likely corresponds to 4-hydroxycumy alcohol according to previous investigation.<sup>46</sup> For PIP, LC/MS analysis confirmed the formation of one predominant species of m/z=227 (M-26) through N-dealkylation of the piperazine ring of PIP. Indeed, the piperazine ring of PIP can be oxidized through two one-electron transfers from the N atom of piperazine ring to Mn(IV), and then N-dealkylation and/or C-hydroxylation cause ring opening, as typically observed for similar compounds.<sup>20,23,25</sup>



Figure 1. Top: Removal kinetics of BPA and PIP ( (aq) = aqueous residual concentration; (tot)= total concentration representing both residual concentration and adsorbed concentration obtained after desorption. The R number refers to Mn(II)/MnO<sub>2</sub> ratio. Bottom: kinetic rate constants at different Mn(II)/MnO<sub>2</sub> ratio. Experimental conditions: [BPA or PIP]=20  $\mu$ M; [acid birnessite] =870  $\mu$ M; [NaCl] =10 mM; pH=5.5 ±0.1.

On the other hand, dissolved Mn(II) displayed suppressive effects on the removal rate of 219 BPA and PIP (Figure 1). The rate constant for PIP sharply decreased with increasing in dissolved 220 Mn(II) amount, whereas the rate constant for BPA did not significantly change between 0 and 50 221  $\mu$ M (the difference is statistically not significant given the relative standard deviation, Figure 1) 222 223 but later decreased with increasing in Mn(II) amount as for PIP. The decrease in the oxidative ability of MnO<sub>2</sub> in the presence of dissolved Mn(II) may result from competition of compound and 224 Mn(II) to interact with reactive surface sites and/or aqueous complexation of compound with 225 Mn(II). However, the effect of aqueous complexation reaction should be of less importance due to 226 weaker binding (low stability constant) of phenols or quinolones with divalent cations such as 227 Mn(II).<sup>47</sup> It should be noted that the PIP adsorbed amount at low Mn(II) loading first increased, 228 229 probably due to favorable electrostatic interactions with MnO<sub>2</sub> surfaces because of the adsorption 230 of Mn(II) ions, and then decreased over reaction time (Figure S5). On the other hand, strong 231 binding of Mn(II) to MnO<sub>2</sub> surfaces suggests competition of target compounds and Mn(II) for surface sites. Indeed, complete removal of dissolved Mn(II) was observed for initial  $[Mn(II)]_{aq} <$ 232 233 100  $\mu$ M, whereas at the highest Mn(II) supplied amount (200  $\mu$ M) more than 60 % of Mn(II) was 234 removed (Figure S6).

Previous studies have determined two different types of adsorption sites at the  $MnO_6$ octahedra layers of layered type birnessite, 1) edge sites and 2) vacancy sites.<sup>48</sup> Edge sites are present on the edge of Mn octahedral sheets and are usually the first sites to react with

contaminants, whereas vacancy sites are present within the Mn octahedral sheets, and are typically 238 associated with long-term adsorption and oxidation sites of contaminants through diffusion from 239 the edge sites.<sup>13,25,49</sup> Previous reports<sup>25,50,51</sup> predicted that anionic compounds are likely to bind 240 only at the edge sites of MnO<sub>2</sub>, whereas cationic Mn(II) could bind at both edge and vacancy sites. 241 Wang et al.<sup>50</sup> reported that because of the highly negative charge of the vacancy sites, fulvic acid 242 (negatively charged polycarboxylic compound) would bind preferentially to edges and not 243 vacancies. Based on all these observations, we hypothesized that the total removal rate of PIP in 244 our experimental scenario is controlled by the PIP adsorption onto surface sites (i.e. formation of 245 the precursor complex) and/or the diffusion of Mn(II) from edge sites to vacancy sites, making the 246 previously occupied edge sites available for further PIP binding. The latter diffusion process could 247 explain the enhanced PIP adsorption during the initial kinetic phase, and subsequent oxidation of 248 bound PIP as the reaction proceeded (Figure S5). 249

As an attempt to assess the time-dependent competition of PIP and Mn(II) towards MnO<sub>2</sub> 250 surfaces, Mn(II) and MnO<sub>2</sub> (Mn(II)/MnO<sub>2</sub> ratio 0.11) were allowed for longer pre-equilibration 251 times (2 h or 24 h pre-equilibration) before PIP addition instead of simultaneous mixing of all the 252 253 three reactants. While the total removal rate of PIP is not significantly affected, the PIP adsorbed amount at the first kinetic stage decreased in pre-equilibrated tests, suggesting that adsorption sites 254 for PIP may be pre-occupied with Mn(II) during the pre-equilibration period (Figure S7). When 255 PIP and Mn(II) were reacted with  $MnO_2$  at the same time, we speculate a competition between PIP 256 and Mn(II) to bind at the edge sites of MnO<sub>2</sub> during the first kinetic phase. As a result, with 257 increasing dissolved Mn(II) amounts, the competition for PIP binding to the edge sites also 258 increases. Ultimately, the buildup of Mn(II) at the edge sites will continuously decrease PIP 259 adsorption and the subsequent oxidation with time. A further kinetic modeling based on two types 260

of sorption sites (see details in the SI) confirmed that Mn(II) can alter both adsorption and oxidation reactions at MnO<sub>2</sub> surfaces. Taken together, our results showed that the amount of available dissolved Mn(II) considerably influenced organic contaminants interactions with MnO<sub>2</sub> surfaces. As pH may also affect Mn(II) redox reactions, the effect of pH on the PIP removal rate was investigated in the following section.

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## 267 3.2. Effects of pH and Mn(II) on the removal rate of PIP

The removal kinetics of PIP at different initial concentrations of Mn(II) (0, 100, 200 µM) were 268 compared at three pH values (4, 5.5 and 8). Figure 2 shows that pseudo-second-order rate constants 269 270 of PIP removal were sensitive to solution pH. The rate constants for all investigated Mn(II) amounts (0, 100, and 200  $\mu$ M) exhibited the same order, pH 4 > pH 5.5 > pH 8. This suggests that 271 acidic conditions favored PIP removal, a trend also observed for analogous quinolones reacting 272 with MnO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>23,52</sup> We attribute this to variability in two pH-dependent factors: 1) speciation of PIP 273 that affects binding to  $MnO_2$  surfaces and then oxidation (as described in section 3.1), and 2) redox-274 potential of MnO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>23,52</sup> PIP molecules were predominantly present in protonated (cationic), 275 276 zwitterionic (neutral), and deprotonated (anionic) form at pH 4, 5.5, and 8 respectively (Figure S4). At relatively low pH, electrostatic interactions of positively charged PIP molecules are favored 277 with the negatively charged surface of MnO<sub>2</sub> (PZC of MnO<sub>2</sub> is ~2.3-2.9).<sup>9,53</sup> 278

Increasing the pH enables more negative surface charge, thereby limiting the interactions with the negatively charged PIP.<sup>54</sup> We verified this experimentally as the amount of PIP adsorbed at pH 8 was significantly less than that measured at pH 4 in all experiments (Figure S9). Second, a decrease in redox potential of MnO<sub>2</sub> from 0.99 V to 0.76 V has been reported when the pH increased from

4 to 8.55 Indeed, reductive conversion of MnO<sub>2</sub> into Mn(II) is dependent on the amount of protons (Eq.3), which would result in increase in PIP removal rate when the pH decreases.

$$MnO_2 + 2e^- + 4H^+ \rightarrow Mn^{2+} + 2H_2O$$
 (Eq. 3)

286

285

**Figure 2.** Kinetic rate constants of PIP, plotted as a function of pH at different initial concentrations of Mn(II) (0, 100, 200  $\mu$ M). Experimental conditions: [PIP]=20  $\mu$ M; [acid birnessite] =870  $\mu$ M; [NaCl]=10 mM.

290 As expected, Mn(II) formed by reductive dissolution of MnO<sub>2</sub> was completely removed by binding to MnO2 irrespective of the solution pH (Figure S9). Mn(II) was below AAS detection 291 limit ( $<0.02 \mu$ M) in all experiments when no dissolved Mn(II) was supplied in the input solution 292 293 (Figure S9). When dissolved Mn(II) was supplied, Mn(II) removal was, however, dependent on the pH value. Lower pH enabled more dissolved Mn(II), while more Mn(II) removal was observed 294 at pH 8. For the highest Mn(II) amount (200 µM), the final steady-state Mn(II) concentrations 295 were  $\sim 120 \,\mu\text{M}$ ,  $\sim 75 \,\mu\text{M}$ , and  $\sim 20 \,\mu\text{M}$  at pH 4, 5.5, and 8 respectively. Similarly, dissolved Mn(II) 296 was below the detection limit at both pH 5.5 and 8 when 100 µM Mn(II) was used, while a 297 concentration of  $\sim 25 \,\mu\text{M}$  was still measured at pH 4. 298

As an attempt to check whether pH can influence the structure of acid birnessite under our 299 experimental conditions, sorption isotherms coupled to ATR-FTIR experiments were investigated 300 at a wide range of Mn(II) concentration (10-2000 µM). First, sorption isotherms showed different 301 shape depending on pH value across the Mn(II) concentration range (Figure 3). Two stages of 302 303 Mn(II) removal were observed at pH higher than 5.5, while at pH 4 a typical L-shape with a plateau was observed. Indeed, substantial increase in Mn(II) removal amount was observed at higher 304 residual Mn(II) concentration and at pH higher than 5.5, following by either a plateau or continuous 305 increase in removal amount. This S-shaped isotherm of dissolved Mn(II) adsorption by birnessite 306 has been already reported in literature but only at pH higher than 7.31,32 They have attributed this 307 behavior to surface-catalyzed oxidation of Mn(II) by molecular oxygen enabling more Mn(II) 308 sorption under oxic conditions relative to anoxic systems through the formation of low valence Mn 309 oxides phases such as feitknechtite ( $\beta$ -MnOOH) and/or manganite ( $\gamma$ -MnOOH). 310

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312

**Figure 3**. Mn(II) sorption isotherms at pH 4, 5.5, 7.5,  $8 \pm 0.1$  under oxic conditions. Experimental conditions: [acid birnessite] =870  $\mu$ M; [NaCI] =10 mM; reaction time =2 d.

To check whether this behavior may occur in our system at that pH range (i.e. lower than 316 7), we conducted sorption isotherms under anoxic conditions at pH 4 and 5.5, and compared to 317 those determined under ambient conditions. While at pH 4 the oxic and anoxic isotherms 318 overlapped (data not shown), there was significant influence of oxygen on Mn(II) removal at pH 319 320 5.5 (Figure S10). However, the ATR-FTIR spectra recorded for sample solids at pH 5.5 did not show any new Mn-phase over the Mn(II) concentration range (200 or 2000 uM) and equilibration 321 time (2 d or 10 d) (Figure S11), probably due to the low formation extent of Mn<sup>III</sup>-bearing phase. 322 Manganite was only detected at pH 8 and at high Mn(II) concentration (2000 µM), at 2 d of 323 equilibration time (as for sorption isotherms) and at longer equilibration time (10 d) (Figure S11). 324 325 Collectively, these results suggested no phase transformation under the experimental conditions used for kinetic assessment (e.g. 200 µM) over the investigated pH range. This was further 326 confirmed by XRD analysis, where no notable transformation can be detected (Figure S12). 327

Despite no evident  $MnO_2$  transformation, we cannot rule out the possibility of formation of 328 Mn(III) species, via comproportionation reaction of adsorbed Mn(II) and structural Mn(IV) in 329 birnessite especially at high pH.<sup>17,50,56</sup> It is well known that Mn(III) centers are an important surface 330 331 features of birnessite and are involved in redox reactions with various organic compounds.<sup>29</sup> First, the average oxidation state of samples reacted with PIP only slightly decreased from 3.98 to 3.92 332  $(\pm 0.02)$  over the investigated pH range. However, partial reduction of MnO<sub>2</sub> upon addition of 200 333  $\mu$ M of dissolved Mn(II) dropped down the AOS to 3.68 (±0.05) at pH 4 and 5.5, and 3.52 (±0.05) 334 at pH 8. This decrease suggests that percentages of Mn(III) or Mn(II) or both are relatively higher 335 336 after 48 h of reaction time with respect to the initial sample. The formation of Mn(III) after 48 h of reaction time in kinetic experiments was further confirmed by the detection of Mn(III)-337 pyrophosphate complex at 480 nm, Mn(III) being stabilized through ligand-binding complexes.<sup>57</sup> 338

As an attempt to check the mass balance of Mn(II), desorption tests with high amount of 339 Ca(II) (25 mM) were conducted. This cation has been proposed as a desorption agent of solid 340 bound Mn(II),<sup>58</sup> though adsorption of Ca(II) on vacant sites is much weaker than Mn(II).<sup>59</sup> It was 341 also reported that Ca(II) may stabilize Mn(III) in the layers through stronger adsorption of Ca(II) 342 in interlayer regions and then compensation of the charge deficiency caused by the presence of 343 Mn(III).<sup>9,33,59</sup> More recently, Wang et al., <sup>50</sup> reported that Ca (II) could exchange adsorbed Mn(II) 344 from vacancy sites, but not block the edge sites. Then, Mn(II) may be oxidized preferentially on 345 edge sites in presence of Ca(II) favoring Mn(III) production and potential formation of 346 MnOOH/Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> phases <sup>50</sup>. Mn(II) desorbed amounts were determined in PIP/MnO<sub>2</sub> suspensions 347 348 subject or not to Mn(II) supplying and at different pH values (Figures S13 and S14). As expected in no-input Mn(II) experiments, more Mn(II) was desorbed at low pH values, as more PIP 349 oxidation and more Mn(II) formation were observed at this pH range (Figure S13). However, the 350 desorbed Mn(II) amount was still lower than the stoichiometric amount corresponding to the 351 oxidized PIP (Figure S9). When 200 µM Mn(II) was present in the input solution, Ca(II) has almost 352 no impact on the amount of dissolved Mn(II), yet a slight decrease in Mn(II) removal was observed 353 354 at pH 4 and 5.5 (Figure S14). These results showed that Ca(II) failed to recover the removed Mn(II), thereby suggesting comproportionation reaction forming Mn(III), as previously reported in 355 Wang et al.<sup>50</sup>. 356

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## 358 3.3. Combined effects of Mn(II) and anions on the oxidation capacity of birnessite

The effects of commonly found inorganic ligands, phosphate and silicate, on the oxidation of PIP with  $MnO_2$  were investigated over the pH range (4-8). The two ligands exhibited similar effects on the PIP oxidation in presence or absence of dissolved Mn(II) (Figure 4). In no-input Mn(II) experiments, the presence of silicate or phosphate did not significantly influence the kinetic rate constants for PIP removal over the whole pH range, only a small decrease in all experiments was observed (Figure 4). However, when Mn(II) was added in the reaction medium, more than 2-times decrease in kinetic rate constants was measured at pH 4 and 5.5 in presence of silicate or phosphate, and much more (~10 times) at pH 8. It is worth noting that similar behavior was observed in the presence of another type of anion, 100  $\mu$ M of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (pKa 6.3 and 10.5) at pH 8 (data not shown). Indeed, a significant effect on PIP oxidation was only observed in presence of Mn(II).

Sorption edges showed low affinity of silicate and phosphate (see speciation in Figure S16) to the negatively charged  $MnO_2$  surfaces in absence of dissolved Mn(II). However, presence of Mn(II) relatively enhanced adsorption of silicate and phosphate into  $MnO_2$  surfaces, particularly at high pH values (> 6) (Figure S17).



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**Figure 4.** Kinetic rate constants of PIP *vs* pH in the absence or presence of silicate or phosphate: (a) noinput Mn(II) experiments, (b) [Mn(II)]<sub>0</sub>=100  $\mu$ M. Experimental conditions: [PIP]=20  $\mu$ M; [acid birnessite] =870  $\mu$ M; [Na<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>3</sub>]=100  $\mu$ M; [NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>]=100  $\mu$ M.

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These results indicate that the pH-dependence of phosphate or silicate sorption is relatively affected by the presence of Mn(II) ion, which may suppose an enhancement of adsorption of anionic ligands through the formation of a surface-Mn(II)-ligand ternary complex. Indeed, Mn(II) may act as a bridge ion to form a complex with the functional groups of ligand. The formation of aqueous complexes of phosphate with Mn(II) ions has been previously reported and different coordination modes have been proposed.<sup>60,61</sup> However, there is a lack of information about the complexation of Mn(II) with dissolved silicate ions, but we may suppose that the aqueous complexation of silicate with divalent cations such as Mn(II) is relatively weak, and lower than that with phosphate.<sup>62</sup> Furthermore, according to the Irving-Williams series<sup>63</sup> and cation adsorption data<sup>55</sup> ternary surface complexation of cations such as Mn(II), Co(II) and Ni(II) with silicate are supposed to follow the order: Mn(II) < Co(II) < Ni(II). As a result, the stability constant value of Mn(II) should be lower than that previously determined for Ni(II), Ni(OSi(OH)<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, log  $\beta$ = 6.34 at I = 0.00M.<sup>64</sup> Because both ligands exhibited similar effects on removal kinetics, there are probably additional factors which may explain enhanced suppressive effects in presence of these ligands.

As dissolved Mn(II) was completely removed from solution at pH 5.5 and 8 over the first 393 reaction time, enhancement in Mn(II) removal due to the presence of anions cannot be highlighted. 394 395 At pH 4, no significant change in Mn(II) removal has been observed upon addition of ligands. On the other hand, possible formation of precipitates (e.g. phosphate or carbonate with manganese 396 ions) is not expected under our experimental conditions due to the low degree of saturation. Indeed, 397 the lower aqueous concentration of free Mn(II) (particularly after adsorption) or ligand exclude a 398 possibility of such precipitation based on the mineral solubility, *i.e.* according to the solubility 399 constant of Mn(II) phosphate (log  $K_s = -27.07$ )<sup>65</sup> and MnCO<sub>3</sub> (log  $K_s = -10.58$ ).<sup>66</sup> In addition, 400 401 FTIR analysis of reacted samples did not reveal any new precipitate (data not shown).

While interactions of silicate with MnO<sub>2</sub> is rarely investigated, adsorption of phosphate has been described by the formation of outer-sphere complexes with surface hydroxyl groups of  $\delta$ -MnO<sub>2</sub> at the same pH range (4-8). <sup>14,67</sup> On the other hand, potential change of the surface charge from negative to positive by exchange of H<sup>+</sup> on the MnO<sub>2</sub> surface may occur during Mn(II) adsorption, a phenomenon also observed during the adsorption of arsenate in presence of Ca(II) or Mg(II). <sup>14,67</sup> The Mn(II) adsorption should lead to a decrease in the negative surface charge, thereby enhancing ability to bind anions and ultimately competition with target compounds. Therefore,

positively charged MnO<sub>2</sub> surface may favor adsorption of anionic compounds like phosphate and 409 silicate through electrostatic attraction. Indeed, in experiments with input Mn(II), competition 410 between PIP and silicate/phosphate to bind at the MnO<sub>2</sub> edge sites can be responsible for 411 suppressed PIP oxidation. However, in experiments with no input Mn(II), potential changes in 412 413 surface charge of MnO<sub>2</sub> caused by the in situ generated Mn(II) was probably not sufficient to permit favorable electrostatic binding of silicate/phosphate. Hence, negligible influence in PIP 414 adsorption and removal rates has been observed in this setup. Furthermore, possible stabilization 415 of dissolved Mn(III) through ligand complexation with phosphate or silicate (as generally reported 416 for pyrophosphate) cannot be verified because of the lack of data on complexation reactions. 417 418 Nevertheless, this potential stabilization of Mn(III) could be excluded because no significant impact of phosphate or silicate has been observed in no-input Mn(II) experiments. Overall, the 419 results suggest that the MnO<sub>2</sub>-bound Mn(II) system could adsorb more effectively anions such as 420 phosphate or silicate and thus reducing interactions with organic compounds.<sup>56</sup> 421

### 422 **4.** Conclusions

We have notably demonstrated that dissolved Mn(II) and anionic ligands, commonly found 423 in terrestrial and aquatic environments, concurrently affect the adsorption and oxidation of organic 424 compounds on nanostructured MnO<sub>2</sub> surfaces. In contrast to phenolic compounds where adsorption 425 is mainly driven by weak van der Waals-type hydrophobic interactions, removal kinetics of 426 427 carboxylated compounds (e.g. PIP) generally bound to MnO<sub>2</sub> through surface complexation reactions exhibited two-stage behavior. During the initial kinetic stage, there was competition 428 429 between compound and Mn(II) for binding at edge sites, while accumulation of Mn(II) at both 430 edge and vacancy sites continuously decreased adsorption and subsequent oxidation over time. 431 Furthermore, pH affected redox interactions of Mn(II) on MnO<sub>2</sub> surfaces and Mn(II)-Mn(IV)

comproportionation reaction, thus decreasing adsorption and oxidation processes. Nanostructured 432 birnessite, with a surface charge modified upon Mn(II) binding, adsorbed more effectively anionic 433 434 ligands such as phosphate or silicate and thus reducing interactions with organic compounds at a range of environmentally relevant pH values. Therefore, co-existing anions and dissolved Mn(II) 435 436 must be considered when examining the reactivity of nanostructured birnessite under environmentally relevant conditions. These findings call for consideration of the co-binding effects 437 of cations and anions on the surface charge of birnessite-type manganese oxide nanoparticles, in 438 contaminant fate and transport modeling studies. 439

440

#### 441 Conflicts of interest

442 There are no conflicts to declare.

443

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#### 450 Footnote

451 \* Electronic supplementary information (ESI) associated with this article can be found in the online
452 version: Additional information regarding analytical and characterization techniques, SEM/TEM
453 images, additional data on removal kinetics and kinetic modeling, ATR-FTIR and XRD data,
454 anions adsorption and speciation.

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