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Exploring Non-Target Screening and Differential Analysis in Assessing Nature-Based Reactive Barrier Treatment of Micropollutants in Treated Wastewater





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Context

- > Reuse of treated wastewater (REUSE): interesting alternative in response of global water scarcity. Risks due to the presence of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) in treated wastewater (TWW).
- > Recent studies (Valhondo et, 2023; Patel et al., 2021) have shown the potential of reactive barriers (RB) made of natural materials (Nature based Solution) easy to access and low cost as recharge system to eliminate contaminants present in TWW.
- > Evaluating RB process effectiveness remain challenging.

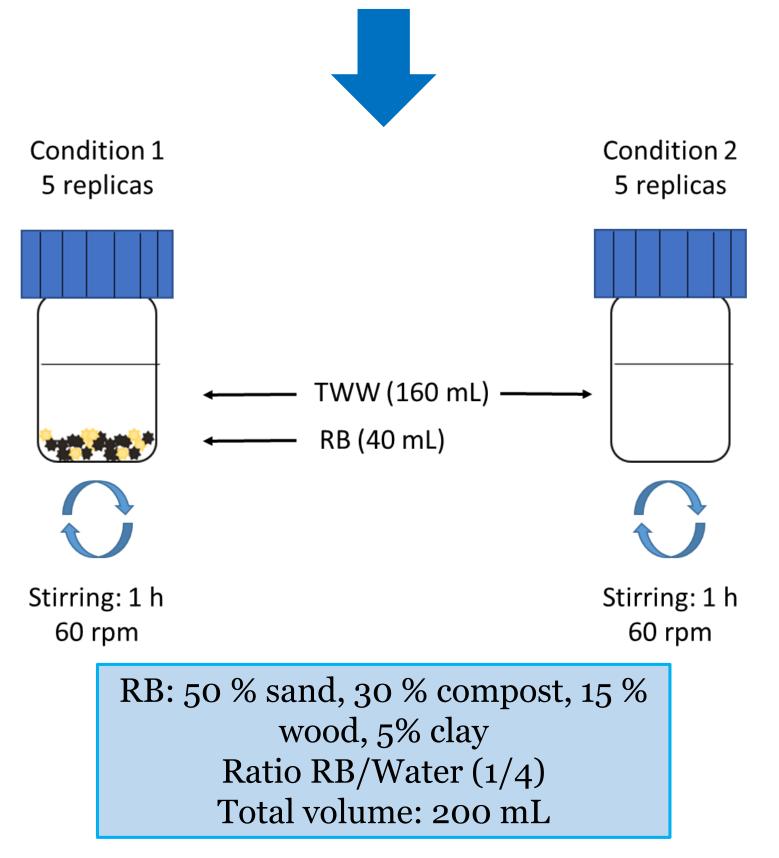
Goals

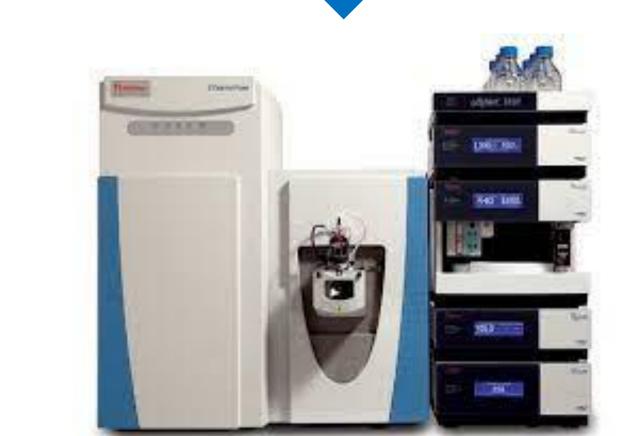
- > Develop differential approach based non-targeted analysis (NTA) to evaluate nature-based reactive barrier effectiveness
- the **NTA contribution** for broadening > Study perspectives on the **impact of RB** treatment

Materials and Methods



Sampling TWW at wastewater treatment plant of Murviel lès Montpellier (34, France)





HPLC – HRMS

- Resolution: 70 000

Extraction on solid phase

(SPE, Oasis HLB)

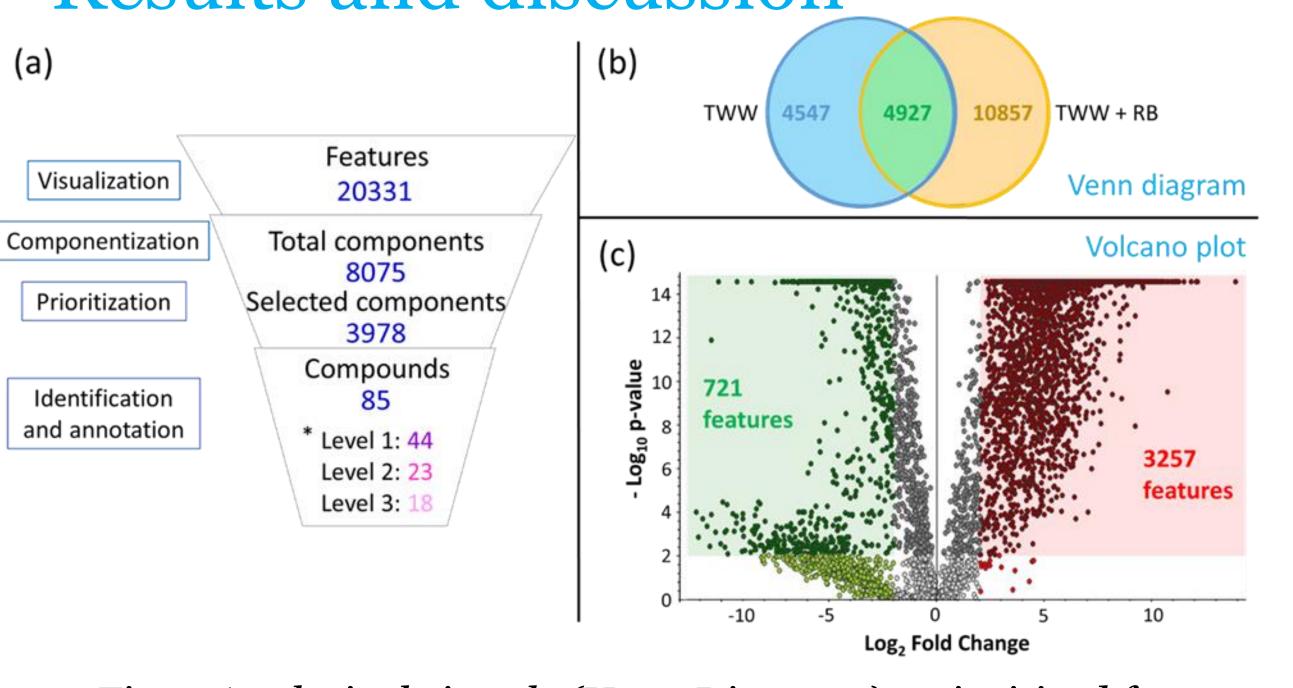
- Targeted (38 CECs) and non-targeted analysis
- Internal databases made of 109 CECs for nontargeted identification

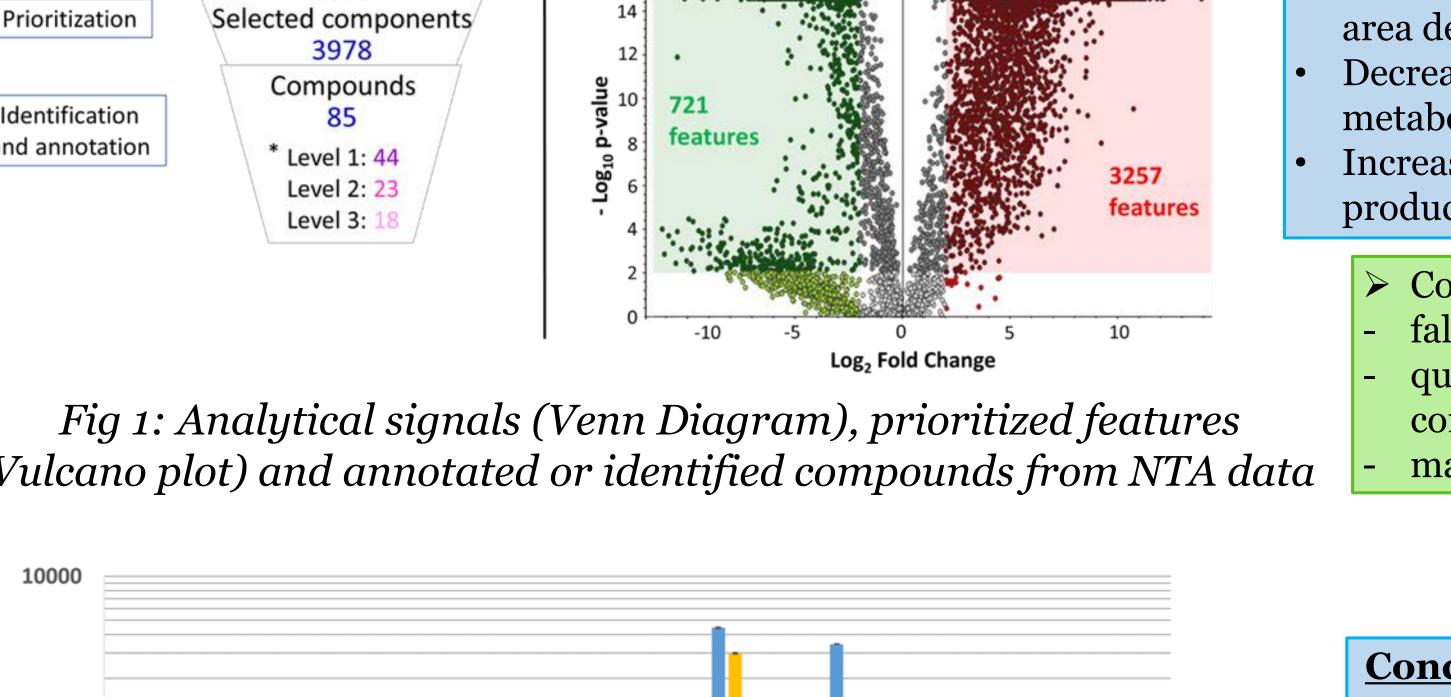


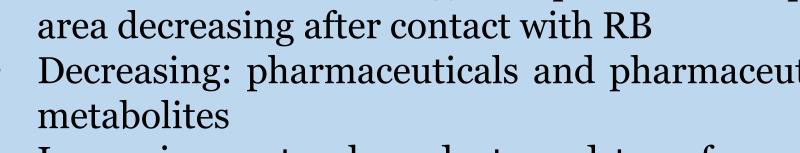
Statistical analysis (ANOVA, p-value ...) Differential analysis

Results and discussion Visualization 20331 Total components (c) 8075 Selected components Prioritization 3978 Compounds Identification * Level 1: 44 Level 2: 23 Level 3: 18

Fig 1: Analytical signals (Venn Diagram), prioritized features (Vulcano plot) and annotated or identified compounds from NTA data







Decreasing: pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical

Comprehensive analysis in positive mode

(Fig 1):

85 compounds identified or tentatively annotated

49 compounds with peak area increasing after

contact with RB and 43 compounds with peak

- Increasing: natural products and transformation products
 - Compound identification challenges:
 - false positives and false negatives
 - stability, quality criteria: analytical contamination, reproducibility
 - matrix effect

TWW TWW+RB Rate Letinitine Cotamiton Dialepan Diclofenac Linconatole Sartan Dialepantigine Sotalol Villa Cinconatole Sartan Dialepantigin

Fig 2: Concentrations of 18 targeted compounds found in TWW and TWW + RB

Concentrations and CECs sorption (Fig 2):

- 18/28 targeted compounds found in TWW
- Irbesartan, lamotrigine and diclofenac > 1 μ g/L
- Sorption: 61% compounds > 50% 39% compounds > 80%

$$S(\%) = \frac{C_{TWW+RB}}{C_{TWW}} * 100$$

- Sorption consistent with other studies (Valhondo et al., 2023; Patel et al., 2021)
- Sorption is the main process in this study

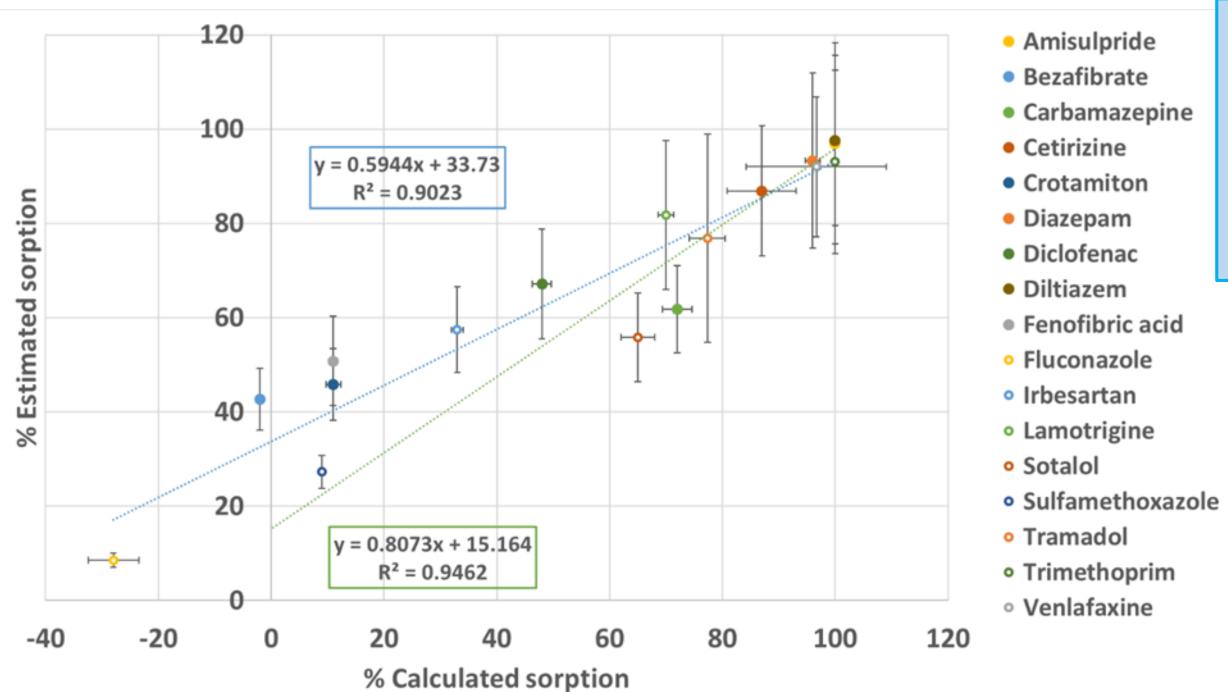


Fig 3: Percentage of sorption estimated by NTA in function of percentage of sorption calculated for target analysis; in blue: linear regression accounting all the compounds, in green: linear regression accounting compounds with S>75%

NTA applicability for sorption estimation (Fig 3):

- Satisfactory correlation but matrix effect vigilance is needed
- Estimated sorption overestimate by 34 % calculated sorption
- Improved correlation for compound sorbing > 75 %
 - > NTA reveals numerous compounds in TWW but also after contact with RB
 - Differential analysis provide valuable information on the effectiveness of RB

Conclusion and perspectives

- > 110 compounds identified or tentatively annotated in positive and negative mode
- > NTA provides a broad and complete view of the performances of nature-based RB treatment, giving information on the **compounds released** by the barrier in addition to **RB sorption capacity**
- > Prospects:
 - pursue investigations using RB made with the studied materials in column experiments exploring other parameters such as flow, duration, redox conditions, microbiological activity and in real-life situations
 - approach allowing the study of released compounds by the RB with the identification of potential transformation products

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