

Invited lecture Free University of Bozen-Bolzano May 13<sup>th</sup> 2019



### DOM biogeochemistry in agricultural soils as a major driver of trace metal bioavailability to soil organisms



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## cirad Environmental significance of DOM biogeochemistry

"Dissolved organic matter comprises only a small part of soil organic matter; nevertheless, it affects many processes in soil and water including the most serious environmental problems like soil and water pollution and global warming"

> Kalbitz and Kaiser 2003 Geoderma 113, 177-178



Bolan et al. 2011 Adv. Agron., 110, 1-75

### Cirad Importance of DOM for metal bioavailability Soil organisms take up trace metal as the free ion in solution



## cirad Importance of DOM for metal bioavailability

#### DOM is a key parameter in environmental risk assessment

Ecotoxicological impacts in LCIA



Terrestrial ecotoxicity with the BLM



Leclerc and Laurent (2017) Sci. Tot. Env. 590-591, 452-460 Sydow et al. (2018) Sust. 10, 4094v **Thakali et al.** 2006 Environ. Sci. Technol., 40, 7085-7093



## Determination of metal speciation

# Several analytical techniques available to measure trace metal speciation...

e.g.

- Donnan membrane technique
- Voltammetry
- Potentiometry

#### **But all have analytical drawbacks**

e.g.

- Tedious and time-consuming
- Do not directly measure the free metal species
- Not sensitive enough

to dealt with environmentally-relevant concentrations

#### $\Rightarrow$ Necessity to develop modelling tool





## Default DOM parameterisation

# Very few studies suggest a relative homogeneity of DOM binding properties



Bryan et al. 2002 Comp. Biochem. Physiol. Part C 133, 37-49



## Default

DOM parameterisation

# Very few studies suggest a relative homogeneity of DOM binding properties

Speciation in soils



Vulkan et al. 2000 Env. Sci. Technol. 34, 5115-5121



## Current limits of DOM parameterisation DOM binding properties appeared more variable than expected in soil



Amery et al. 2008 Eur. J. Soil Sci. 59, 1087-1095

## Current limits of DOM parameterisation DOM binding properties appeared more variable than expected in the rhizosphere

Predicted p{Cu<sup>2+</sup>}



- Bulk Soil Solution
- Rhizosphere Solution
- Optimised rhizosphere

But measured in only one soil limed ex situ at different pH

Bravin et al. 2012 Geochem. Cosmochem. Acta 84, 256-268

## Current limits of DOM parameterisation DOM binding properties appeared more variable than expected in amended soils



Unamended soil

- Soil + 90 t/ha Pig slurry for 4 y
- Soil + 150 t/ha Pig slurry for 4 y

 But measured on much more than only DOM as FA were extracted according to the IHSS procedure

#### Plaza et al. 2005 Chemo. 61, 711-716

## cirad Objectives of my research

#### **Evaluate how substantial is the variability of DOM binding properties in:**

- Bulk soils
- Rhizospheres
- Soils amended with organic residues
- From the lab to the field

# **Evaluate the significance of this variability on trace metal:**

- Speciation in soil solution
- Bioavailability and toxicity to soil organisms











**Bulk-soil** 

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## Results – part I Soil diversity

#### **Methodology: Analytics**

- > 55 soils : determinations in 1/10 soil solution extracts
  - pH
  - Dom
  - Total major cations & anions
  - Total metals
  - Cu<sup>2+</sup> activity





#### 5 soils : DOM analytical characterisation

- SUVA 254 nm
- E<sub>254</sub>/E<sub>355</sub> ratio
- Organic anions
- Parafac 3D fluorescence







## Results – part I Soil diversity

#### Substantial variability of soil solution parameters







## **v** cirad

## Results – part I Soil diversity

#### DOM binding properties Model optimisation vs. analytics

Djae et al. unpublished

	R <sup>2</sup>	
	% r-MOD	Log K <sub>cu</sub>
SUVA (I/g/cm)	0,88	0,97
E2/E3	0,39	0,35
∑ acides organiques (mg <sub>MOD</sub> /L)	0,34	0,19
∑ Contributions fluorescence (u.a)	0,02	0,01







#### Significance for soil Cu ecotoxicity



**Optimised parameterisation** 

Diae et al. 2017 Environ. Toxicol. Chem. 36, 898-905



## Results – part I Soil diversity

#### What about other trace metals?



Djae et al. unpublished

## Results – part I Soil diversity

#### **Intermediate conclusions**

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DOM binding properties vary in such a large extent that an optimised parameterisation of WHAM is necessary to predict adequately Cu speciation in soil solution and Cu toxicity to soil organisms

Similar conclusion should be reached for trace metals exhibiting a high affinity for DOM such as Pb, but not for other trace metals such as Cd, Ni, and Zn

DOM aromaticity may drive the variability of its binding properties and may be used as a proxy to optimise DOM binding properties in speciation models



#### **Methodology: RHIZOtest & analytical procedure**





<u>3 plant species</u> : Cabbage et Tomato (dicots) Fescue (monocot)

Analytics similar to bulk-soil : DOM characterisation on 12 soils

**Bulk-soil** 

Rhizosphere

Djae et al. in prep.



#### Substantal chemical changes in the rhizosphere



Djae et al. in prep.



#### **Default vs. optimised Cu<sup>2+</sup> modelling**



CabbageTomatoFescue

Djae et al. in prep. 25



#### **Optimised DOM binding properties Rhizosphere vs. bulk soil**

**Optimised % r-DOM** 



- Tomato
- ♦ Fescue

Djae et al. in prep. 26

**Optimised log** K<sub>Cu</sub>



#### DOM binding properties Model optimisation vs. analytics



**Optimised log** *K*<sub>*Cu*</sub>



Djae et al. in prep.



#### Intermediate conclusions

Usual chemical properties in the rhizosphere substantially differ from that in bulk soil

Model optimisation based on bulk soil is not sufficient to predict adequately Cu speciation in the rhizosphere solution

DOM binding properties in the rhizosphere differ substantially from that in bulk soil

We did not find yet an adequate proxy to optimise DOM binding properties in the rhizosphere

# ciradResults – part IIIOrganic residuesMethodology: Exp. & analytical procedure

4 days soil incubation exp.





#### Analytics similar to RHIZOtest exp.

Soil solution collected by centrifugation

Djae et al. in prep.

## Results – part III Organic residues

#### Substantial chemical changes in amended soils

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# cirad Results – part III Organic residues Default vs. optimised Cu<sup>2+</sup> modelling

**Default parameterisation** 



#### **Optimised parameterisation**



Djae et al. in prep. 31

# ciradResults – part IIIOrganic residuesOptimised DOM binding propertiesAmended vs. unamended soil



**Djae et al.** in prep.

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Djae et al. in prep.

Molecular weight 33

## Results – part III Organic residues Intermediate conclusions

Organic residue application changes substantially soil chemical properties and Cu speciation in soil solution

Optimisation of DOM binding properties is necessary to improve Cu speciation prediction in an amended soil

DOM binding properties increase in an amended soil

DOM molecular weight may drive the variability of its binding affinity and may be used as a proxy to optimise this parameter in speciation models



## Results – part IV Field-scale validation

#### Methodology: 10-year filed trial

#### > 2 species

- Tomato = dicot
- Fescue = monocot

#### > 3 fertilizations

- Mineral
- Pig slurry compost
- Poultry litter compost

#### Soil sampling

- Bulk soil
- Rhizosphere

#### > Analyses

• As for lab exp.

Djae et al. unpublished









Djae et al. unpublished



Djae et al. unpublished

**Bulk soil** 



Djae et al. unpublished



Bulk soil

Djae et al. unpublished





Djae et al. unpublished



## Results – part IV Field-scale validation

#### **Organic residue vs. plant effects : Cu<sup>2+</sup> activity**





Djae et al. unpublished



Djae et al. unpublished



Results – part IV

Djae et al. unpublished

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## Final conclusions

DOM binding properties seem to vary much more than previously expected

Soil diversity, rhizosphere specific properties, and organic residue applications at least induce a large variability in DOM binding properties

The variability in DOM binding properties should be accounted for in speciation models and predictive ecotoxicology

Necessity to find some proxy(s) to parameterise DOM binding properties in speciation models



## A few perspectives

(Re-)examining DOM binding properties with adequate and some new analytical techniques

A way could be to determine the relative but comprehensive metabolomic profile of DOM molecules in some relevant study cases to better parameterise speciation models

Further evaluate the kinetic aspects of DOM binding properties



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