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2 **An intermediate complexity dynamic model for predicting**
3 **accumulation of atmospherically–deposited metals (Ni, Cu, Zn,**
4 **Cd, Pb) in catchment soils: 1400 to present**

5

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14

15 **Abstract**

16 The Intermediate Dynamic Model for Metals (IDMM) is a model for prediction of the pools
17 of metals (Ni, Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb) in topsoils of catchments resulting from deposition of metals
18 from the atmosphere. We used the model to simulate soil metal pools from 1500 onwards in
19 ten UK catchments comprising semi-natural habitats, and compared the results with present
20 day observations of soil metal pools. Generally the model performed well in simulating
21 present day pools, and further improvements were made to simulations of Ni, Cu, Zn and Cd
22 by adjusting the strength of metal adsorption to the soils. Some discrepancies between
23 observation and prediction for Pb appeared to be due either to underestimation of cumulative
24 deposition, or to overestimation of the metal pool under ‘pristine’, pre-industrial conditions.
25 The IDMM provides a potential basis for large scale assessment of metal dynamics in
26 topsoils.

27 *Keywords*

28 Metals; soils; dynamic modelling; atmospheric deposition

29 *Capsule*

30 The Intermediate Dynamic Model for Metals predicts the present day pools of Ni, Cu, Zn, Cd
31 and Pb in semi-natural catchment soils of the UK.

32 **1. Introduction**

33 Soils may become contaminated by metals from a variety of sources including mining and
34 smelting activities, atmospheric deposition and land application of materials such as manures
35 and sludges. Since metals tend to associate strongly with soil solids, responses of soil
36 concentrations to changes in inputs, particularly decreases, are predicted to occur on
37 timescales from decades to centuries (Paces, 1998). Thus, current concentrations of metals in
38 soils, and leaching to groundwater and surface waters, are highly dependent upon historic
39 inputs. The critical loads approach (e.g. Hall et al., 2006; Lofts et al., 2007; de Vries and
40 Groenenberg, 2009) uses the steady state concept as a starting point for assessing the
41 sensitivity of soils to metal contamination. It is clear, however, that the timescales of metal
42 accumulation and leaching in soils are sufficiently slow to warrant dynamic modelling for
43 more realistic assessment of future risks.

44 Approaches for long term (decades or longer) dynamic modelling of metals in soils vary in
45 sophistication and range of applicability, from detailed catchment models such as the
46 Chemistry of the Uplands Model (CHUM; CHUM-AM) (Tipping, 1996; Tipping et al.,
47 2006a; Tipping et al., 2006b) and the SMARTml model (Bonten et al., 2011) to simpler
48 models such as those presented by Posch and de Vries (2009) and de Vries and Groenenberg
49 (2009) or the TRANSPEC-II model of Bhavsar et al. (2008). The CHUM model simulates
50 the long-term chemistry of both major ions and metals, taking into account solid-solution
51 partitioning of major ions (Na, Mg, Al, K, Ca) and trace metals, mineral weathering, and
52 cycling of C, N and S in soils. Thus, CHUM-AM can simulate mechanistically the
53 confounding effects of changes in soil pH status and C cycling on metal accumulation and
54 release over time. The dynamic models presented by Posch and de Vries (2009) and de Vries
55 and Groenenberg (2009) are intended for the calculation of target loads of input metal over a
56 defined period. Transfers between metal pools (e.g. soil-bound and dissolved) are calculated
57 using a combination of empirical and mechanistic modelling, while potential confounding
58 effects such as changes in porewater pH or dissolved organic carbon (DOC) in drainage water
59 are not simulated. Complex models such as CHUM-AM are applicable for catchments where
60 detailed monitoring data are available for parameterisation and testing, while the simpler

61 models are more suitable for larger scale application where less detailed data are available for
62 parameterisation.

63 In this paper we present a dynamic model for metals in soils that is intermediate in
64 complexity between CHUM-AM and the simpler dynamic models. The Intermediate
65 Dynamic Model for Metals (IDMM) combines mechanistic and empirical submodels to
66 describe metal speciation in the soil and runoff, within a flexible framework whereby
67 temporal changes in driving variables such as metal deposition, porewater pH and DOC may
68 be imposed. We describe the model structure, inputs and limitations, and demonstrate its
69 application to prediction of historical metal accumulation in a set of UK catchments
70 comprising semi-natural habitats. The objective is to demonstrate the utility of the IDMM as
71 a tool for predicting present day and future metal concentrations in soils as a result of past,
72 current and future metal inputs.

73 **2. Materials and methods**

74 *2.1. Intermediate Dynamic Model for Metals*

75 The IDMM simulates a single chemically and physically homogenous soil layer, composed
76 of fine soil (comprising material <2mm), stones (inorganic material > 2mm) and pore space,
77 which represents an idealised average composition of the catchment soil. The pore space is
78 occupied by air and water. The depth of soil to be simulated is the choice of the user. In this
79 study we have simulated complete soil profiles, to bedrock, for the non-peat soils. In peat
80 soils the acrotelm only was simulated. The relative proportions of fine soil, stones, water and
81 unoccupied pore space making up the soil layer are assumed not to change over time. The
82 soil layer is defined by its depth (m), bulk density (g m^{-3}), organic matter content (%) (SOM),
83 the proportion of the total volume that is occupied by stones (%), the proportion of the
84 catchment that is bare rock (%), and the soil water content (% saturation of the pore space).
85 The density of the fine soil is calculated by assuming the soil mineral matter to have a
86 particle density of $2.6 \times 10^6 \text{ g m}^{-3}$ and the soil organic matter to have a density of 1.5×10^6
87 g m^{-3} . These variables are used to calculate the concentration of fine soil (g soil per m^3
88 porewater) in the soil layer.

89 *Metal fluxes and mass balance*

90 The model runs on an annual timestep. Metal (Ni, Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb) may be either adsorbed to
91 the fine soil solids, dissolved in the porewater, or adsorbed to eroded fine soil in the

92 porewater. Together, these forms comprise the pool of ‘geochemically active’ or labile metal.
 93 On each timestep, metal enters the soil as an input to the soil surface (e.g. from atmospheric
 94 deposition) and by mineral weathering, and is assumed to mix completely with the metal
 95 already present. Inputs of metal are assumed to be completely geochemically active. The
 96 pool of mineral-associated metal is not explicitly simulated beyond the simulation of
 97 weathering inputs to the geochemically active pool over time. The ‘fixation’ or ‘aging’ of
 98 metal into soil particles is not simulated. Metals are lost from the soil layer by porewater
 99 leaching. The mass balance of metal in the soil layer is given by the expression

$$100 \quad \Delta M_{soil} = \frac{F_{input} + F_{weath}}{1 - f_{rock}} - L \cdot 10^3 \left(\{M\}_{ads} \cdot [ES] + [M]_{pw,diss} \right) \quad (1)$$

101 The terms in this equation are as follows:

- 102 • ΔM_{soil} is the change in the geochemically active metal pool in the soil in one year, in
 103 mol per m² of soil);
- 104 • F_{input} and F_{weath} are the inputs of metal to the soil surface and by mineral weathering,
 105 respectively, in mol per m² of the catchment. The metal input to the soil surface may
 106 vary over time, while the weathering rate is assumed to be constant;
- 107 • f_{rock} is the proportion of the catchment area that is bare rock;
- 108 • L is the annual leaching volume of water from the soil layer, in m³ per m² of soil area;
- 109 • $\{M\}_{ads}$ is the adsorbed part of the geochemically active metal pool in mol per g of
 110 fine soil;
- 111 • $[ES]$ is the concentration of eroded soil in the porewater in g dm⁻³;
- 112 • $[M]_{pw,diss}$ is the concentration of dissolved metal in the porewater.

113 *Soil-porewater partitioning of metal*

114 The model calculates the partitioning of the geochemically active metal between the solid
 115 (soil) and solution (porewater) phases using a combination of two submodels. A semi-
 116 empirical Freundlich transfer function is used to describe the relationship between the
 117 adsorbed pool and the free metal ion in porewater, and the WHAM/Model VI equilibrium
 118 speciation model calculates the dissolved metal in porewater from the free ion. The transfer
 119 function relates the adsorbed and free ion forms of the metal in the soil layer:

$$120 \quad \log \left(\frac{M_{ads}}{M_{free}^n} \right) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \cdot \text{pH} + \alpha_2 \cdot \log (\% \text{SOM}) \quad (2)$$

121 The terms α_0 , α_1 , α_2 and n are fitted constants, and $\{M\}_{\text{ads}}$ and $[M]_{\text{free}}$ are the geochemically
122 active metal pool (mol per g fine soil) and the free metal ion in porewater (mol per dm^3),
123 respectively. The %SOM is the % organic matter content of the fine soil.

124 The concentration of metal dissolved in the porewater is calculated from the free ion
125 concentration using WHAM/Model VI. This calculation requires specification of the
126 porewater chemical composition (pH, concentrations of ionic species and dissolved organic
127 carbon (DOC)). The chemical composition of the porewater is determined as follows:

- 128 • The pH is a time-variant input;
- 129 • the concentrations of sodium and chloride are fixed to $1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ and
130 $3.33 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ respectively;
- 131 • the concentrations of calcium, nitrate and sulphate are initially set to zero, 3.33×10^{-4}
132 mol dm^{-3} and $1.67 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ respectively. During model initialisation, the
133 concentration of either calcium, or the combined concentrations of nitrate and
134 sulphate, are adjusted to achieve charge balance;
- 135 • iron(III) and aluminium are specified by estimation of their free ion activities. The
136 activity of iron(III) is specified by assuming equilibrium with precipitated iron(III)
137 hydroxide (Lofts et al., 2008). The activity of aluminium is specified using the
138 expressions derived by Tipping (2005) for activity in soil solutions. Following
139 Tipping (2005), different expressions are used for ‘mineral’ soils (having less than
140 20% organic matter) and ‘organic’ soils (greater than or equal to 20% organic matter);
- 141 • the carbonate concentration is calculated assuming it to be in equilibrium with CO_2 in
142 the soil atmosphere. The partial pressure of CO_2 is a fixed input. For the calculations
143 presented here we assumed a partial pressure of CO_2 of $3.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ atm}$ in the soil
144 atmosphere, ten times the pressure in the open atmosphere.
- 145 • the DOC concentration is specified as a model input, which may change from year to
146 year. Binding of ions by dissolved organic matter (DOM) is simulated assuming each
147 unit mass of DOM to have binding properties equivalent to 0.65 unit masses of fulvic
148 acid (FA) (i.e. 1 mg dm^{-3} DOM is equivalent to 0.65 mg dm^{-3} of FA). The DOM is
149 assumed to comprise 50% carbon.

150 The concentration of metal adsorbed to eroded fine soil in the porewater is computed from
151 the concentration of eroded fine soil and the concentration of adsorbed metal per unit mass of

152 fine soil. The concentration of eroded fine soil in the soil porewater is specified as a model
 153 input. The mass of fine soil in the soil layer is not corrected for erosion losses.

154 *2.2. Dynamic modelling*

155 To simulate metal dynamics in a soil layer, the model is run from a chosen starting year in the
 156 past which is assumed to represent pristine conditions with respect to metal inputs, i.e. when
 157 inputs are assumed to comprise only atmospheric deposition of metal from natural sources
 158 such as volcanism. Furthermore, the soil pool of geochemically active metal is assumed to be
 159 in steady state in the starting year, such that losses in leaching balance inputs from deposition
 160 and weathering. Under the steady state assumption, $\Delta M_{soil} = 0$, so Equation (1) can be
 161 rearranged as follows:

162
$$\frac{F_{input} + F_{weath}}{1 - f_{rock}} = L \cdot 10^3 \left(\{M\}_{ads} \cdot [ES] + [M]_{pw,diss} \right)$$

163 and
$$[M]_{pw,total} = \{M\}_{ads} \cdot [ES] + [M]_{pw,diss} = \frac{F_{input} + F_{weath}}{(1 - f_{rock}) \cdot L \cdot 10^3} \quad (3)$$

164 where $[M]_{pw,total}$ is the total metal concentration (dissolved and adsorbed to eroded soil) in the
 165 porewater. Initially, $[M]_{pw,total}$ is calculated from the pristine metal inputs and runoff, then
 166 $[M]_{free}$ and $\{M\}_{ads}$ at steady state are calculated iteratively using the transfer functions and
 167 WHAM/Model VI. Metal dynamics in subsequent years are then computed by first speciating
 168 the total geochemically active metal into adsorbed and dissolved pools, then calculating the
 169 change in the geochemically active pool, and the annual leaching flux, according to Equation
 170 (1).

171 *2.3. Catchments, soils and atmospheric deposition*

172 The locations of the catchments from which soils were sampled are shown in Figure 1. The
 173 catchments comprise the following:

- 174 1. Four small sub-catchments (0.3–1.8 km² in area) of the upper River Duddon in the
 175 English Lake District. The catchments are Gaitscale Gill (GG), Troughton Gill (TG),
 176 Hardknott Gill (HKG) and Castle How Beck (CHB). The landscape is high relief with
 177 altitude within the catchments varying from 200–800 metres above sea level (m.a.s.l.).
 178 Vegetation is predominantly grassland, with appreciable areas of bare rock (20% of
 179 the total area). Soils at higher altitude are largely thin humic rankers, with some peats,
 180 with areas of humic brown earth soils towards valley bottoms.

- 181 2. The catchment of Scoat Tarn (ST) (0.8 km²), a small mountain lake in the western
182 Lake District. General catchment and soil characteristics are similar to those for the
183 upper Duddon; catchment altitude varies from 600–820 m.a.s.l..
- 184 3. An area of 0.4 km² on the western side of Great Dun Fell (GDF), in the Pennine hills
185 of central northern England. The area is shallow-sloped, at an altitude of
186 approximately 500 m.a.s.l., and comprises peat and ranker soils. The vegetation is
187 heather-grass moorland and wetland. Precipitation is around 1300 mm a⁻¹.
- 188 4. The River Etherow (RE) and Howden Reservoir (HR) catchments, in the southern
189 part of the Pennines range. These are neighbouring catchments with areas of 13 km²
190 and 36 km², and altitudes of 310–630 m.a.s.l. and 290–600 m.a.s.l., respectively. Soils
191 and vegetation in both catchments are similar; soils comprise peats and podzols and
192 the vegetation is largely heather moorland with some areas of rough grazing.
- 193 5. Lochnagar (LN) is a mountain catchment in the eastern part of the Cairngorms massif
194 in the Scottish Highlands, at an altitude of 790–1150 m.a.s.l. and an area of 1.2 km².
195 The catchment comprises heather-grass moorland with peaty soils and an extensive
196 proportion (50%) of bare rock, and a corrie lake of area 0.1 km².
- 197 6. The Old Lodge (OL) catchment is situated in Ashdown Forest in south east England.
198 The catchment has an area of 0.4 km² and comprises lowland heathland with some
199 improved grassland and a small portion of woodland. Soils are cambisols and podzols.
200 Catchment altitude varies from 105–190 m.a.s.l..

201 The approach to soil sampling has been previously been described by Tipping et al. (2006a;
202 2006b; 2010). Briefly, soils were sampled in five or six locations in each catchment by
203 digging pits to the maximum accessible depth, i.e. to bedrock or to large stones. In peaty
204 catchments (GDF, RE and HR), soils were sampled to a depth of 10cm in wetter places and
205 to 20cm in drier places. Separate soil samples were taken from organic and mineral horizons
206 where both were encountered. Soil pH, C content, concentrations of geochemically-active
207 metals and bulk densities were measured. Soil pH was determined on supernatants obtained
208 by extraction of soil with 1 mM NaCl at a field moist soil:solution ratio of 1:2.5. Soil carbon
209 was determined by elemental analysis (Universal CHNS-O Vario EL elemental analyser).
210 Geochemically-active soil metal concentrations were determined following extraction with
211 0.1M HNO₃. Contents of trace elements and Si in representative rock samples were
212 determined by X-ray fluorescence (British Geological Survey).

213 The collection and processing of bulk atmospheric deposition has been described previously
214 (Lawlor and Tipping, 2003; Tipping et al., 2007; Yang et al., 2002). Deposition was collected
215 in the Duddon, GDF, RE and OL catchments using polypropylene funnels and polyethylene
216 collection vessels and analysed by ICP–MS, and in the LN catchment using an RS-1 type
217 precipitation collector. Sample collection and processing followed strict cleanliness
218 protocols. Trace metal determination was done by ICP–MS.

219 **3. Model application**

220 *3.1. Timespan of simulations*

221 The objective of this study was to predict present day pools of metals in the topsoils of the
222 study catchments from measurements and estimates of historic metal deposition. To do this,
223 we assumed that the soil metal pools were in steady state with deposition and weathering in
224 the year 1400, as was previously done by Tipping et al. (2006b) and Tipping et al. (2010).
225 Simulations were started from this date and run to 2010.

226 *3.2. Atmospheric deposition*

227 The overall shape of the time trend in atmospheric deposition of metals to was derived from
228 the observations of Ochsenein et al. (1983) on metal concentrations in sediments cores from
229 Blelham Tarn in the English Lake District. Deposition was assumed to comprise a constant
230 background rate D_B , a variable rate D_A due to deposition of metal emitted at regional and
231 national scale, and a second variable rate due to deposition of metal emitted due to mining
232 and smelting activities in the local region of the catchment $D_{A, local}$. The deposition profile
233 started in 1400 with a rate equal to D_B . Regional/national scale anthropogenic deposition was
234 assumed to start in a year y_0 (1600 for Pb, 1800 for the other metals) and to increase over
235 time to 1960 according to the expression

$$236 \quad D_A = D_{A, \max} \left(\frac{y - y_0}{1960 - y_0} \right)^n \quad (4)$$

237 where D_A is the deposition rate ($\text{g ha}^{-1} \text{a}^{-1}$), y is the year for which deposition is being
238 calculated, y_0 is the starting year, $D_{A, \max}$ is the deposition in 1960 and n is a constant. From
239 1960 to 1970 anthropogenic deposition was assumed to be constant at a rate of $D_{A, \max}$, after
240 which it declines linearly to 2000 and then remains constant to 2010.

241 Deposition profiles were first calculated for the Duddon catchments (GG, TG, HKG and
242 CHB) and scaled to the measured present-day deposition fluxes in the GDF, RE and OL
243 catchments. Deposition fluxes at ST were assumed to be equal to those in the Duddon
244 catchments, and those at HR assumed to be equal to those in the RE catchment. In both cases
245 this assumption was based on the proximity of the catchments to each other. Deposition
246 profiles for LN were derived by adjustment of the parameters of Equation 4 to observed
247 metal profiles in the sediments of the lake within the catchment (Tipping et al., 2007).

248 The possible influence of additional local metal deposition ($D_{A, local}$), due to mining activities,
249 was investigated in the RE and HR catchments. To incorporate historic local deposition we
250 used the time series profiles constructed by Tipping et al. (2010), which represent idealised
251 scenarios. Local deposition was assumed to start in 1700, increase linearly until 1830 to a
252 value $D_{A, local, max}$, then remain constant until 1860 and decrease linearly to zero in 1900. For
253 these catchments, scenarios were run both including and omitting the local deposition.

254 Parameter values for Equation 4 are given in Table S1.

255 3.3. *Soil properties*

256 We derived for each catchment a single idealised soil profile representing the ‘best average’
257 physicochemical properties (pH, soil organic matter content, bulk density, stony material
258 content) of the sampled catchment soils. This was done using the same approach previously
259 used by Tipping et al. (2006a) and Tipping et al. (2010) based on surveys of soils across each
260 catchment, but deriving a single ‘best average’ set of properties for the complete soil layer,
261 rather than for two layers. The properties derived are listed in Table S2.

262 Pools of ‘geochemically active’ metal, expressed on an areal basis (mol m^{-2}), were calculated
263 for each sampling location within the catchment from soil metal concentrations, bulk density
264 and the proportion of stony material, as previously described in detail by Tipping et al.
265 (2006b) and Tipping et al. (2010). Mean values for each catchment are given in Table S3.

266 3.4. *Metal weathering*

267 We used the weathering rates of metals into the soil pool (F_{weath}) ($\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{a}^{-1}$) previously
268 calculated by Tipping et al. (2006b) and Tipping et al. (2010). These calculations assumed
269 that metals are weathered by congruent dissolution of silicate minerals. Weathering rates
270 were calculated from the streamwater flux of Si and the metal:Si ratios in minerals.
271 Weathering rates for each catchment are given in Table S4.

272 3.5. Porewater pH, DOC and SPM concentrations

273 Modelling with the IDMM requires time series data for soil pH, as the model does not itself
274 compute this variable. Where historic changes in soil pH are known or suspected to have
275 occurred in the catchment, reconstruction or estimation of a time trend for model input may
276 be appropriate. The catchments simulated here have all been subject to historic anthropogenic
277 acidification, with more recent evidence for declines in acidification (Tipping et al., 2000;
278 Davies et al., 2005). Past trends in pH may be estimated by a number of methods, such as
279 from diatom assemblages preserved in lake sediments (e.g. Birks et al., 1990), or by
280 simulation using an acidification model such as MAGIC (Cosby et al., 1985). For the
281 simulations presented here, we used time series of soil porewater pH predicted by the
282 CHUM-AM model (Tipping et al., 2006a, 2007, 2010; Ashmore et al., 2007) as inputs. The
283 porewater pH in the CHUM-AM simulations was calculated for two soil layers, which for the
284 IDMM runs have been bulked to form a single mixed layer. A single porewater pH for this
285 layer was calculated from the CHUM-AM predictions by taking the mean of the predicted
286 pHs for each year, weighted for the soil solid mass in each of the layers used for the CHUM-
287 AM simulations. The time trends in porewater pH are shown for each catchment in Figure 2.
288 It can be seen that soil acidification is predicted to begin between 1600 and 1700 and to
289 increase in rate in the 1800s to reach a minimum pH around 1960-1980, after which a partial
290 recovery towards pristine values is predicted to occur. Concentrations of DOC and SPM in
291 the porewater were set equal to the concentrations in drainage from the lowest soil horizon in
292 the CHUM-AM simulations (Tipping et al., 2006b, 2010). The influence of erosion on the
293 predicted soil metal pools was assessed by also performing model with the porewater SPM
294 concentration set to zero.

295 3.6. Metal soil-solution partitioning

296 The distribution of metal between the free ion in porewater and the geochemically active pool
297 (Equation (2)) was calculated using one of two sets of parameters. The first was derived by
298 Shotbolt and Ashmore (2004) using a dataset derived from UK soils. The dataset comprised
299 chemical analyses of (i) 95 upland grassland topsoils of England and Wales (Tipping et al.,
300 2003) (Cu, Zn, Cd and Pb only), (ii) 56 topsoils from locations with mixed land uses
301 (deciduous woodland, heathland, upland coniferous forest, acid grasslands and lowland
302 coniferous forest), and (iii) 16 topsoils, comprising soils from three locations contaminated
303 by historic Pb mining, and three neighbouring uncontaminated locations. The methods

304 described by Tipping et al. (2003) were used for the extraction of soil porewaters and
305 chemical analysis of soils and porewaters. The geochemically active soil metal pools were
306 estimated by extraction with 0.1M sodium EDTA at a soil:solution ratio (w:v) of 1:10. Free
307 metal ion concentrations in the porewater were calculated using WHAM/Model VI (Tipping,
308 1998). We will refer to the transfer functions derived using these data as set A.

309 In order to make a comparison with a transfer function parameterised on a wider range of soil
310 types, we also performed model runs using the transfer function parameters calculated for
311 Equation (2) by Groenenberg et al. (2010), which we will refer to as set B. These parameters
312 were calculated from three datasets: the UK non-forested upland soils dataset already
313 described, and two datasets comprising measurements from soil samples of the Netherlands.
314 The Groenenberg et al. datasets cover a slightly smaller range of porewater pH (3.3–8.3) and
315 a wider range of soil organic matter content (0.5%–97.8%) compared to the UK-only
316 datasets (pH 3.0–8.3 and soil organic matter 4.6%-97.8%). Parameter values for both sets of
317 transfer functions are provided in Table 1.

318 Comparisons of the predictions made by each set of transfer functions are shown in Figure
319 S1. The figure illustrates how the predicted free metal ion concentrations change with
320 increasing soil organic matter content, for two porewater pH values, and a single
321 geochemically active metal concentration. For Ni, transfer function B predicts higher free ion
322 concentrations, indicating weaker binding to the soil. The difference between the predictions
323 is smaller at higher pH and lower soil organic matter content; at a soil pH of 6 and an organic
324 matter content of 10% or lower, the predictions are similar. Copper is predicted to have a
325 difference dependence of binding strength on soil organic matter content. At a soil organic
326 matter content of 50%, predicted binding strengths are very similar, while at lower soil
327 organic matter transfer function A predicts stronger binding and at higher soil organic matter
328 transfer function B predicts stronger binding. Conversely, the predictions for Zn show that
329 both transfer functions predict similar dependences of binding strength on soil organic matter
330 content, but show different dependences on pH: at a porewater pH of 3 transfer function A
331 predicts stronger binding, while at pH 6 transfer function B predicts stronger binding. The
332 predictions for Cd are very similar, while for Pb transfer function A consistently predicts
333 stronger binding. This is particularly pronounced at low soil organic matter contents ($\leq 10\%$),
334 where the free ion predicted by transfer function A is over an order of magnitude lower than
335 that predicted using transfer function B.

336 3.7. *Dynamic model application*

337 Model runs were performed for the period 1400 to 2010, assuming that in 1400 the soils were
338 in steady state with respect to their chemistry and organic matter content. The model was
339 initially applied to each catchment without optimisation of parameters. For the catchments
340 where only regional deposition was considered, two simulations were made, one with each
341 transfer function. For the catchments where both local and regional deposition were
342 considered, four runs were made, considering regional deposition only, and considering
343 regional and local deposition, using each transfer function.

344 Model performance was assessed by comparing the observed and predicted soil pools for
345 each metal for the year for which observations were available. Temporal trends were also
346 assessed to consider the predicted metal behaviour.

347 **4. Results**

348 4.1. *Time series predictions*

349 Examples of time series predictions for two catchments, TG and HR, are shown in Figure 3.
350 Nickel, Zn and Cd are all predicted to show reductions in soil pools in response to lower
351 deposition inputs since 1970, while Cu and Pb show reduced accumulation but no net losses.

352 4.2. *Predicted retention of metals by catchment soils*

353 Retention of anthropogenic metal by the soils to 1970 and 2000 is shown in Figure S2. The
354 metals show contrasting patterns of retention. Generally, retention increases in the order
355 $Zn < Ni < Cd < Cu < Pb$ in simulations using transfer function A. In simulations using
356 transfer function B, the order is similar with the exception that Ni shows slightly lower mean
357 retention than Zn. Copper retention is higher in simulations using transfer function B (mean
358 81%) than in simulations using transfer function A, while the opposite trend is seen for Pb,
359 with mean 93% retention in simulations using transfer function set A and 83% in simulations
360 using transfer function set B. Nickel, Zn and Cd generally show greater cross-catchment
361 variability in retention than do Cu and Pb.

362 Simulated changes in soil metal pools in response to reduced deposition from 1970 to 2000
363 also show patterns dependent on the metal and the transfer function used for simulation.
364 Generally, Cu and Pb are predicted to continue accumulating in most catchments,
365 independent of the transfer function used. Cd is predicted to have continued to accumulate in

366 around half the catchments and to have shown a net loss in the remainder, while both Ni and
367 Zn are predicted to have shown net losses in most of the catchments.

368 Examination of the role of soil erosion on metal loss showed that for Ni, Cd and Zn,
369 predicted metal losses in erosion at the present day were consistently less than 5% of the total
370 losses, regardless of catchment or transfer function used. Erosional losses of copper were also
371 consistently below 5% with the exception of HR where they were predicted to be 7% when
372 using transfer function A and 9% when using transfer function B. Erosional losses of Pb were
373 predicted to comprise a widely proportion of the total losses, across all the catchments. When
374 using transfer function A, proportional losses were predicted to range from 0.5% for RE to
375 34% for HR and 47% for GDF. When using transfer function B, losses ranged from less than
376 0.1% for OL to 8% for HR and 26% for GDF.

377 The influence of simulating erosion on the prediction of soil metal pools was variable. When
378 erosion was not simulated, present-day metal pools were consistently predicted to be higher
379 than in the simulations where erosion was simulated. For Ni, Zn and Cd, the difference in
380 present-day pools was less than 0.1% in all the catchments except GDF and HR, regardless
381 of the transfer function used. For Cu and Pb, the differences covered a wider range. For Cu,
382 the largest difference seen was 1.5%, in the GDF catchment, with transfer function A, and
383 3.3%, in HR, with transfer function B. For Pb, the respective largest differences were 14.3%
384 (HKG) and 5.5% (GDF). The largest differences for Ni, Zn and Cd respectively were 2.3%,
385 0.9% and 2.1% using transfer function set A, and 1.3%, 0.8% and 1.9% using transfer
386 function set B. All these differences were observed in the GDF catchment.

387 4.3. *Influence of local deposition*

388 Figure 4 illustrates the effect of simulating additional local metal deposition on the
389 predictions of metal pools in the HR catchment. In all cases the addition of local deposition,
390 with an earlier onset date than the regional deposition, results in higher metal pools at an
391 earlier date. In the cases of Ni, Zn and Cd, the model predicts that present day pools would be
392 very similar to those seen if there were no additional deposition, with pools in the presence of
393 local deposition calculated to be 1.1, 1.0 and 1.1 times higher, respectively, than the pools
394 predicted in the absence of local deposition. In the cases of Cu and Pb, local deposition is
395 predicted to have a residual effect on current day pools. For Cu the pool is predicted to be 1.8
396 times larger than in the absence of local deposition, while the Pb pool is predicted to be 2.0
397 times larger. The proportional predicted increases in present day metal pools for the three

398 catchments for which scenarios including local deposition have been run are shown in Figure
399 S3. Generally, the addition of local deposition has the largest influence on the predicted Pb
400 pools, with a near doubling of the present day pools predicted. Conversely, present day pools
401 of Zn are predicted to be little affected by the addition of local deposition.

402 4.4. Comparison with observed soil metal pools

403 Figure 5 compares observed present day metal pools in all the catchment with IDMM
404 predictions using transfer function set A, and Figure 6 shows the equivalent comparison for
405 transfer function set B. The model predicts the observed present day Zn and Cd pools to
406 within a factor of three in all the catchments and the observed Cu and Pb to within the same
407 degree in nine catchments. Nickel pools are predicted to the same degree in seven of the
408 catchments. Overall, the root mean squared differences in the (logged) observed pools, for
409 Ni, Cu, Zn, Cd and Pb respectively, are 0.40, 0.35, 0.24, 0.29 and 0.39 when using transfer
410 function set A. When using transfer function set B, Zn and Cd pools are predicted to within a
411 factor of three in nine and eight catchments respectively, and Cu and Pb pools to within the
412 same degree in seven catchments. Nickel is predicted to within the same degree in all ten
413 catchments. The root mean squared differences for Ni, Cu, Zn, Cd and Pb are 0.33, 0.43,
414 0.27, 0.31 and 0.46 respectively.

415 The predicted soil pools of Pb exhibit some distinctive patterns compared to the observed
416 pool. The observed present day pool in the RE catchment soils (100 mmol m^{-2}) is over seven
417 times greater than the pool predicted by the IDMM using either transfer function (13.1 mmol
418 m^{-2} using transfer function set A and 8.61 mmol m^{-2} using transfer function set B). This pool
419 is also greater than the sum of the total anthropogenic input of Pb and the predicted steady
420 state pool under pristine conditions, when using either transfer function. In two catchments
421 (LN and OL) the model predicts that the present day pool would be overestimated by the
422 model even in the absence of any anthropogenic deposition, when using transfer function set
423 A (Figure S4). Conversely, this is not observed in either catchment when using transfer
424 function set B, and the model achieves good agreement between observation and prediction.

425 Clear trends towards over- or under-prediction of observed metal pools were noted for Ni,
426 Cu, Cd and Pb, when using either transfer function. In the case of Pb, as already noted, this
427 may result from overestimation of the pristine pool or apparent underestimation of the
428 anthropogenic inputs. In the case of the other metals, uncertainties in the transfer functions
429 are a plausible source of this bias. To investigate this we optimised the constant term α_0 in the

430 transfer functions for Ni, Cu, Zn and Cd to achieve the best fit between (logged) observed
431 and predicted metal pools. For transfer function set A, optimal fits (Figure 5) were obtained
432 by adjusting α_0 by -0.27, -0.33, 0.15 and 0.38 respectively, resulting in root mean squared
433 deviations of 0.29, 0.29, 0.18 and 0.12. For transfer function set B, optimal fits (Figure 6)
434 were obtained by adjusting α_0 by 0.12, -0.43, 0.15 and 0.41 respectively, resulting in root
435 mean squared deviations of 0.30, 0.30, 0.22 and 0.13.

436 **5. Discussion**

437 The IDMM generally makes reasonable predictions of present day metal pools in the
438 catchments studied here, given the inherent uncertainty in the historic metal deposition
439 profiles and the within-catchment variability in soil properties and metal pools. Also, despite
440 the relatively simple nature of the model compared to CHUM-AM, which we have previously
441 applied to these catchments (Tipping et al., 2006; 2010), the model predicts reasonably
442 similar soil pools (Figure S5). Thus, the IDMM has clear promise as a model for predicting
443 the dynamics of metals in soils on the basis of relatively simple inputs.

444 The IDMM describes the solid-solution partitioning of metals by coupling an empirical
445 transfer function with a chemical speciation model for the computation of porewater metal
446 speciation. This is a somewhat more complex approach than is often taken in chemical fate
447 models where a simple partition coefficient (K_d) approach is used to compute the distribution
448 of chemical between solid and dissolved (i.e. porewater) phases. Such an approach has also
449 been shown to provide a good description of soil–solution partitioning for metals, where the
450 dependence of K_d upon soil and porewater properties is modelled (e.g. Groenenberg et al.,
451 2012), and could readily be incorporated into the IDMM. The reason for adopting the more
452 complex, ‘coupled’ approach it allows calculation of the free metal ion concentration. Since
453 the free ion concentration is a key variable in metal uptake and toxicity models, this
454 potentially allows the IDMM to be coupled to models such as the terrestrial BLM (Thakali et
455 al., 2006), the free ion approach (Lofts et al., 2004; Lofts et al., 2013) and Freundlich–based
456 uptake modelling approaches (e.g. Plette et al, 1999; Mertens et al., 2007) Thus, the
457 simplicity of a K_d –based approach is sacrificed to allow greater model potential, without the
458 need to take a purely mechanistic approach.

459 The comparison of transfer functions suggested that transfer function set A in general
460 performed better than transfer function set B, despite being derived from a smaller set of soils
461 with a narrower range of physicochemical properties. However, set A simulated Pb relatively

462 poorly in two catchments (OL and LN), due to overestimating the steady state soil pool. The
463 porewater Pb concentration at steady state is calculated so that Pb losses in leaching balance
464 the inputs, therefore it is independent of the transfer function. Since set A predicts greater
465 binding of Pb to the soil than does set B, this must necessarily result in a higher steady state
466 adsorbed pool. Clearly, the performance of both transfer functions for Pb suggests that the set
467 B parameters are providing the more realistic estimates of metal distribution between free ion
468 and soil-adsorbed forms,

469 A useful development would be to use soil data to calibrate the model directly, by optimising
470 the transfer function coefficients, instead of relying on values determined from soil
471 experiments. This could provide tighter relationships between prediction and observation, and
472 thereby more precise predictions. Adjustment of the constant term in the transfer function, as
473 we have done in this study, is a useful alternative method, despite being less satisfactory
474 since it makes the assumption that all bias is due to a single parameter.

475 Extension of the model to other trace metals and metalloids is clearly possible, given suitable
476 parameterisation. Metals that exist in cationic form are clearly amenable to incorporation, if
477 transfer function parameters and solution complexation constants, including binding to DOC,
478 become available. Anionic metals and metalloids, such as molybdenum and arsenic, present
479 distinct, although not insurmountable issues. The binding characteristics of these species to
480 dissolved organic matter are poorly known compared to the metals simulated in this study,
481 and so more fundamental DOM-binding studies and model development would be required
482 before such species could be incorporated into the IDMM at the same level of complexity. A
483 first step would be to express soil-solution partitioning of such species as a single empirical
484 function, as has been done, for example, by Groenenberg et al. (2012) for Mo and As. This
485 would alleviate the need to explicitly consider binding to DOM as a separate process, but
486 would be potentially less useful for linking to toxicity modelling since it would not entail
487 calculation of the free ion concentrations.

488 The role of soil erosion as a present day loss process was predicted in most cases to be
489 relatively minor in comparison to losses as dissolved metal in soil drainage, and to have a
490 minor influence on the prediction of present day metal pools in the topsoils. An exception
491 was Pb, where differences in predictions with and without erosion occasionally exceeded
492 10%. Applications of the model to other soils are clearly desirable. Its ease of application
493 means that it can be tested for many sites, using generic histories of metal deposition (and
494 acidification if relevant), but taking into account local variations where known. Thus, in

495 principle the IDMM could be applied to sufficient representative soils to permit national
496 assessments of soil metal dynamics, including future scenarios. In particular, there is
497 potential scope for application to other soil systems apart from the ones described here, such
498 as agricultural systems receiving metal inputs from sources such as sludges, manures and
499 fertilisers. Another possible improvement would be to add a second soil box, so that the slow
500 downward movement of metals through soil could be represented. This would also open the
501 possibility of incorporating a description of metal transfer to surface waters and
502 groundwaters, permitting integrated assessment of metal dynamics in a similar manner to
503 CHUM-AM. Wider application of the model could benefit from more detailed consideration
504 of processes causing metal losses, particularly erosion, which may be significantly higher in
505 lowland catchments (e.g. Chambers et al., 2000; Chapman et al., 2005). Additionally, the
506 selective erosion of particles enriched in metals relative to the bulk soil (e.g. Quinton and
507 Catt, 2007) could be usefully incorporated into the model. The IDMM provides a suitable
508 framework within which to test the influence of processes not currently considered in heavy
509 metal dynamic models. For example, it could be used to assess the influence of metal storage,
510 cycling and removal in biomass (e.g. trees in forested catchments, crops in arable
511 catchments), and the effects of fixation (“ageing”) processes whereby metal added to soil in
512 geochemically active form is rendered unreactive by incorporation into mineral matter.
513 Existing models of metal fixation (e.g. Crout et al., 2006) could readily be incorporated into
514 the IDMM.

515 **6. Conclusions**

516 The Intermediate Dynamic Model for Metals (IDMM) provides generally reasonable
517 predictions of present day metal (Ni, Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb) pools in a series of semi-natural UK
518 catchments, based on profiles of historic metal deposition and soil pH. Agreement between
519 observation and prediction can generally be improved by optimising the transfer functions
520 describing the partitioning of metal between the free ion and the soil-bound pool. In the case
521 of Pb, the generally strong predicted retention in the soil makes the historic deposition rate
522 the most important driving variable in the predictions. The IDMM provides a potentially
523 useful tool for large scale application to study and predict topsoil metal dynamics. Additional
524 processes such as metal fixation and biomass uptake could be readily incorporated in order to
525 simulate more complex systems than those studied here.

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642

Table 1. Derived parameters for transfer functions A and B.

Transfer function A				
	α_0	α_1	α_2	N
Ni	-4.84	0.31	0.93	0.70
Cu	-5.17	1.17	0.78	1.00
Zn	-3.28	0.36	0.90	1.00
Cd	-5.85	0.39	0.95	0.68
Pb	-4.20	1.12	0.72	1.00
Transfer function B				
	α_0	α_1	α_2	N
Ni	-4.76	0.45	0.91	0.84
Cu	-6.37	0.64	0.87	0.57
Zn	-4.67	0.46	0.84	0.84
Cd	-5.71	0.41	0.91	0.70
Pb	-6.46	0.96	1.35	0.84

643

644

645 **Figures**

646 Figure 1. Locations of modelled catchments. A = Lochnagar; B = Great Dun Fell (GDF);
647 C = Scoat Tarn; D = Upper Duddon (Gaitscale Gill, Troughton Gill, Hardknott Gill, Castle
648 How Beck); E = River Etherow; F = Howden Reservoir; G = Old Lodge.

649 Figure 2. Time trends in soil porewater pH, predicted by the CHUM-AM model and used as
650 inputs to the IDMM simulations. Catchment abbreviations are as follows: HKG = Hardknott
651 Gill; CHB = Castle How Beck; TG = Troughton Gill; GG = Gaitscale Gill; GDF = Great Dun
652 Fell; HR = Howden Reservoir; BER = Blackstone Edge Reservoir; RE = River Etherow;
653 OL = Old Lodge; LN = Lochnagar.

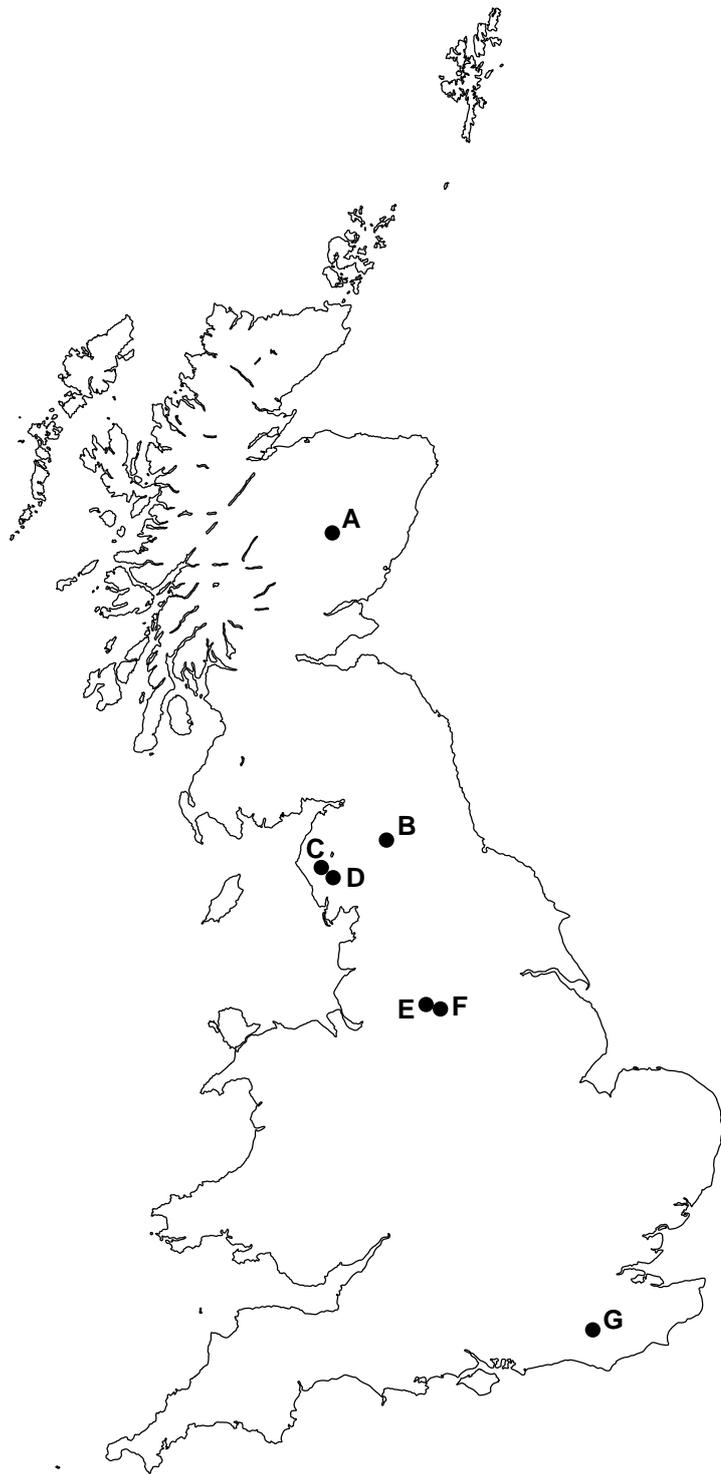
654 Figure 3. Time trends of geochemically active metal concentrations (mol m^{-2}) in TG
655 catchment soils (left hand plots) and HR catchment soils (right hand plots). Points represent
656 individual determinations of geochemically active metal pools. Lines represent IDMM
657 simulations. Thin solid lines: simulations using transfer function set A; thin dashed lines:
658 simulations made transfer function set B.

659 Figure 4. Time trends of geochemically active metal concentrations (mol m^{-2}) in HR
660 catchment soils, with and without the consideration of local deposition and using transfer
661 function set A. Points represent individual determinations of geochemically active metal
662 pools. Lines represent IDMM simulations. Thin solid lines: including national/regional
663 deposition only; dashed lines: simulations including national/regional and local deposition.
664 All simulations use the UK soils transfer function.

665 Figure 5. Comparison between mean observed and simulated soil metal pools (mmol m^{-2})
666 when using transfer function set A. Solid points represent blind predictions, open points
667 represent fits obtained by optimisation of the constant term in the transfer function.

668 Figure 6. Comparison between mean observed and simulated soil metal pools (mmol m^{-2})
669 when using transfer function set B. Solid points represent blind predictions, open points
670 represent fits obtained by optimisation of the constant term in the transfer function.

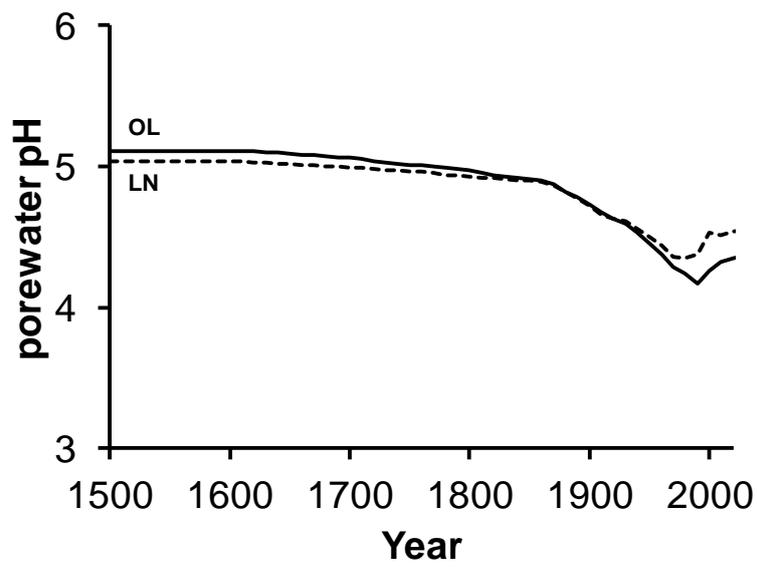
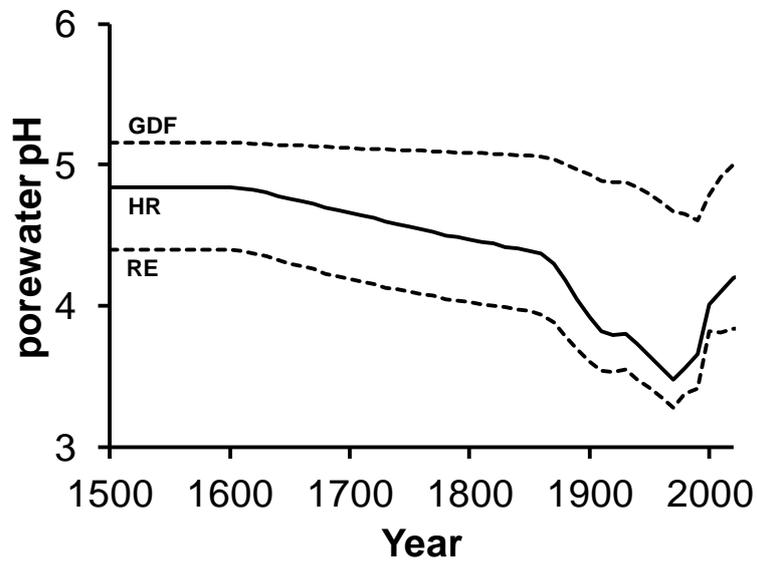
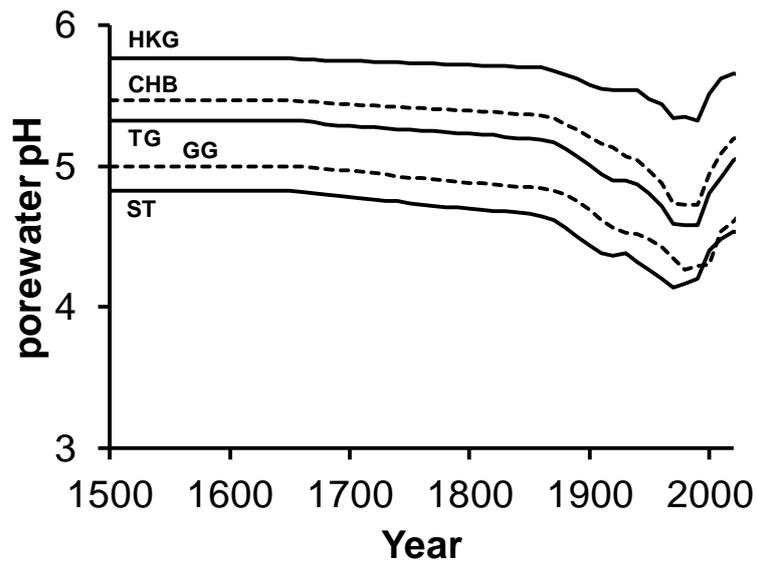
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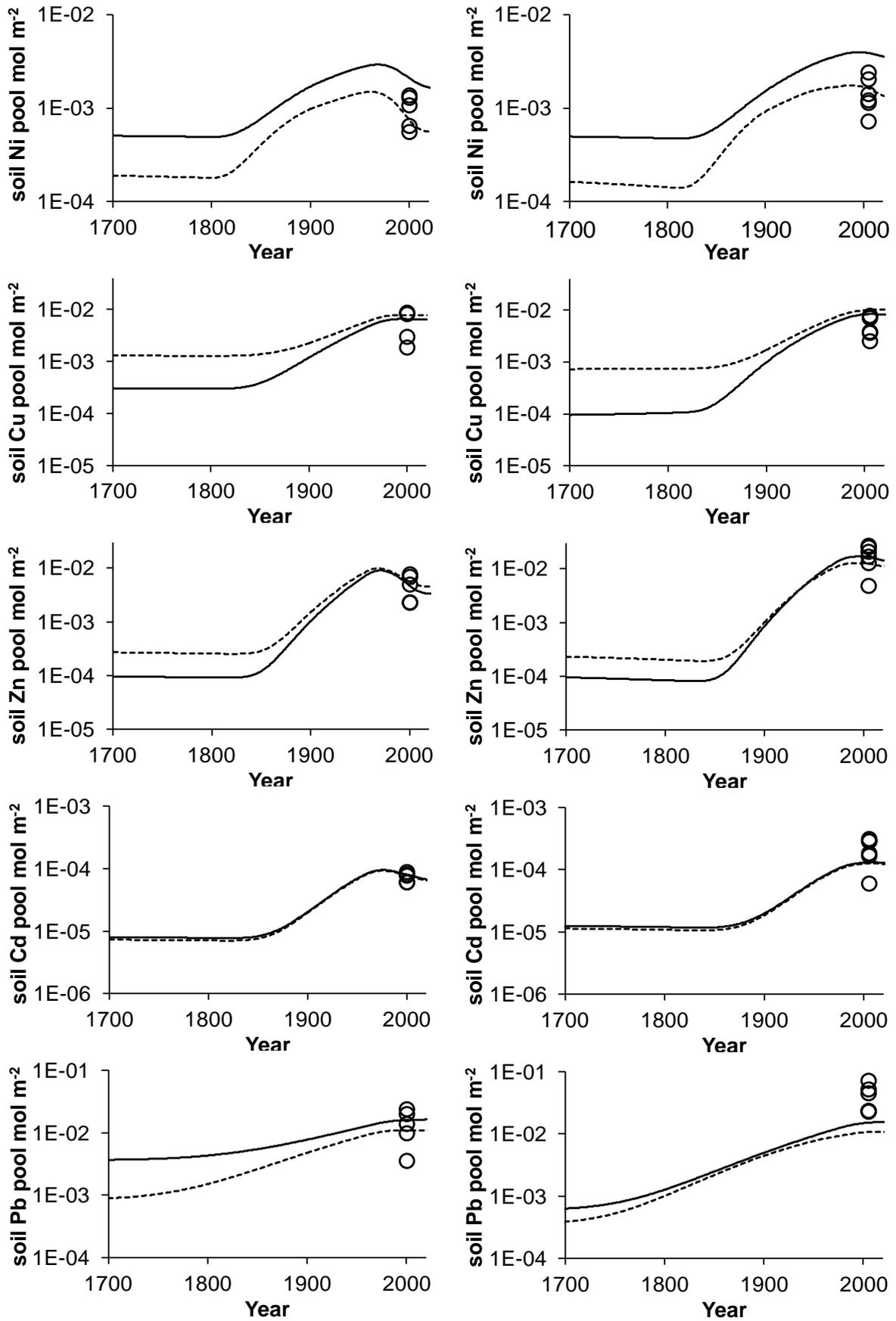
673 Figure 1.

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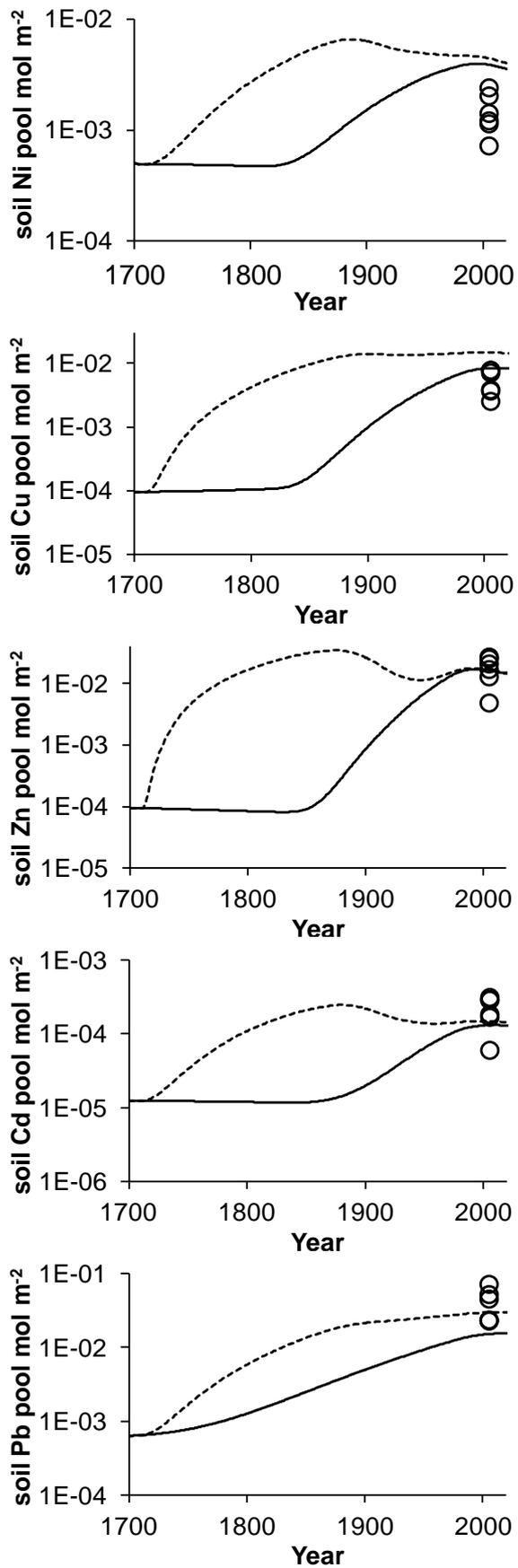
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676 Figure 2.



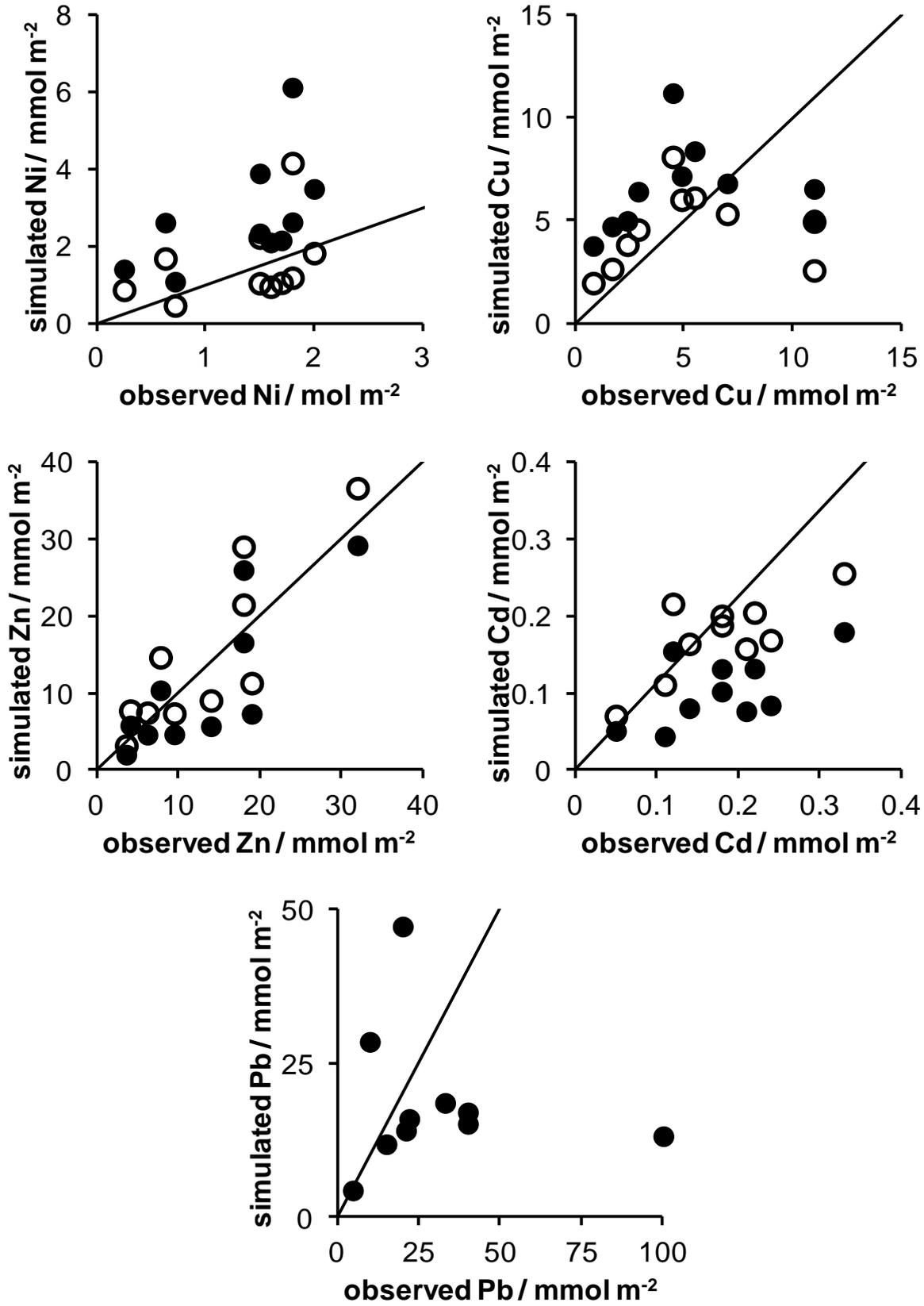
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678 Figure 3.



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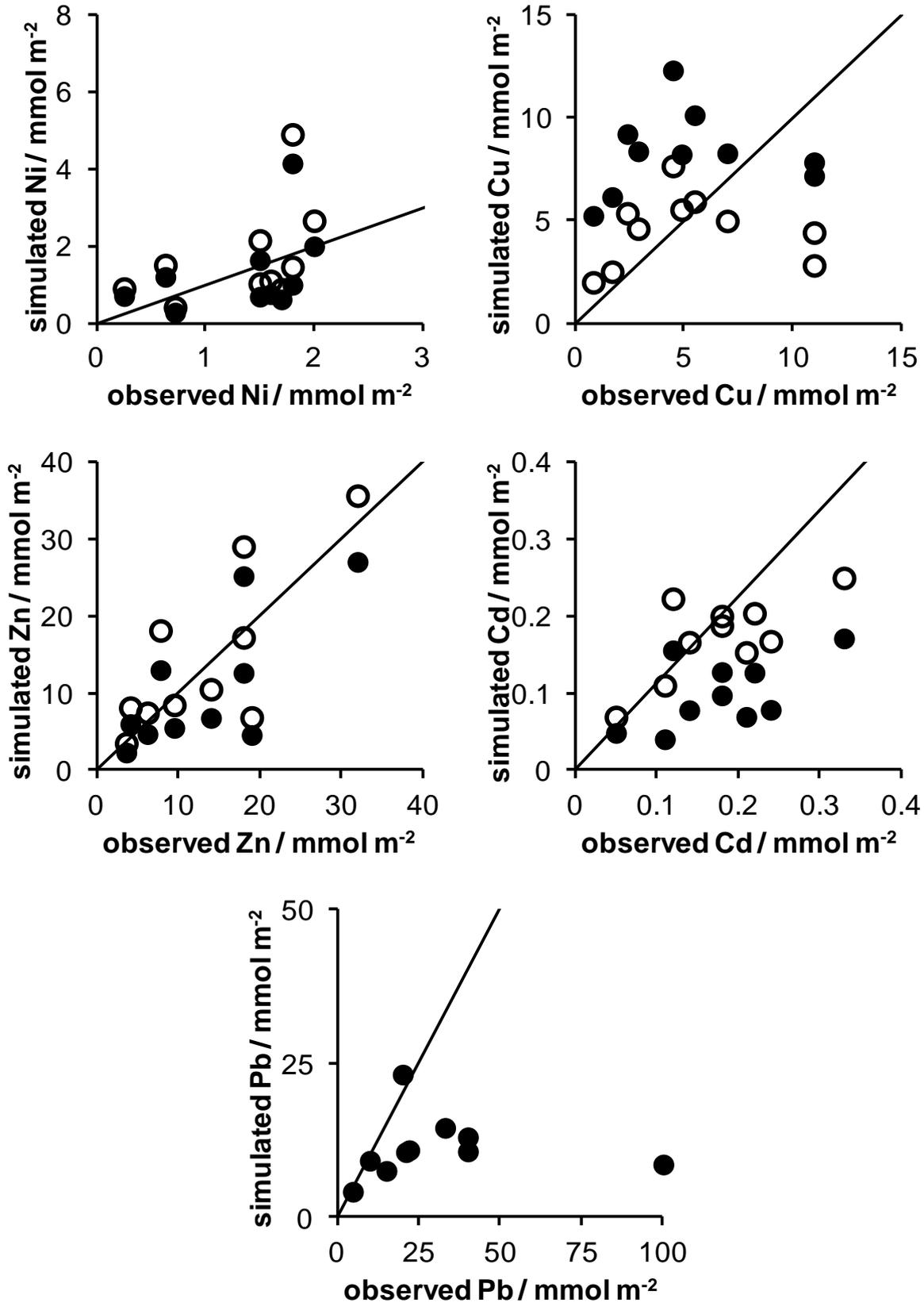
680 Figure 4.



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682 Figure 5.

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685 Figure 6.

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