

Holocene dust record in a NW European peat bog: A multiproxy approach

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Dust deposition in southern Belgium is estimated from the geochemical signature of an ombrotrophic bog. The analyses of Rare Earth Elements (REE) and lithogenic element concentrations as well as Nd isotopes were performed by HR-ICP-MS and MC-ICP-MS respectively, in a ~ 6 m peat section representing 5300 years, from 30 BC to 5300 BC dated by the ¹⁴C method. REE concentration variations in peat samples were used as a dust proxy and the Nd isotopes to trace the sources. Peat humification and testate amoebae were used to evaluate hydroclimatic conditions. The range of dust deposition varied from 0.03 to 4 g m⁻² yr⁻¹. The highest dust fluxes were observed from 800 to 600 BC, and from 3200 to 2800 BC and correspond to cold periods. The εNd values show large variability, between -5 and -13, identifying three major sources of dust: local soils, distal volcanic and desert particles. By comparing our results with the dust recorded in other peat bogs and ice cores from different latitudes, we evidence that the Misten peat is a valid archive for dust deposition.

CO₂ emissions from arc volcanism: sources, rates and uncertainties

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Arc volcanism is one key geological manifestation of chemical exchanges between the Earth's mantle and surface reservoirs through plate subduction processes. Global quantification of the deep carbon cycle, in particular, requires improved knowledge of the CO₂ output from arc volcanoes, of respective carbon contributions from subducted slabs, mantle degassing and arc crusts, and hence of the proportion of total subducted carbon recycled back into deeper mantle. Here I present an updated review of these different aspects and their uncertainties.

Chemical and isotopic data for high-temperature (450-1040°C) volcanic gases from various subduction zones worldwide, combined with melt inclusion data, provide the most pristine information on magmatic arc volatiles. High CO₂/³He ratios in these gases compared to MOR fluids evidence systematic addition of crustal-derived carbon whose origin (subducted sediments, altered oceanic slab, or arc crust) can be discriminated from the δ¹³C vs CO₂/³He relationship and other geochemical tracers. In most cases, slab-derived carbon is the prevalent (70-95%) component of CO₂ emitted by arc volcanoes, except at a few documented volcanoes in continental arcs (e.g. Italy) where magma-carbonate crustal interaction is a significant to important source.

Published estimates of the global CO₂ output from arc volcanism, assessed from different proxies (fluxes of S, ³He, ²¹⁰Po or/and magma supply rates), vary within an order of magnitude and, over time, tend to increase with increasing data for volcanic plume emissions but also crater lakes, hydrothermal systems and soil degassing. When compared to global budgets for subducted carbon, the current figures suggest a carbon recycling efficiency of between ~50 and 100% through arc volcanism, with obviously contrasted implications for the deep carbon cycle. Hence, measuring CO₂ fluxes and δ¹³C vs CO₂/³He at much more numerous arc volcanoes worldwide is badly needed in order to better constrain this important aspect. This is one key objective of the international DECADE project sponsored by the Deep Carbon Observatory (DCO).