Copper isotope fractionation during adsorption onto manganese oxides

Y. IJICHI^{1*}, T. OHNO¹, S. SAKATA¹

¹Department of Chemistry, Gakushuin University, Mejiro, Tokyo, Japan, 171-8588 (*yutaidichi@gmail.com)

Ferromanganese oxides are the aggregate which consists iron and manganese oxyhydrites and they scavenge many elements in the ocean. Recently, the variation of isotopic composition of adsorbed elements in narutal ferromanganise oxides has been investigated to understand the paleo-ocean redox or elemental circulations in the ocean. To reveal mechanism of copper isotope fractionation between dissolved and adsorbed species, adsorption experiments and X-ray absorrption fine structure spectroscopy (XAFS) have been conducted[1-3]. Previous works reported isotopically light value of copper in ferromanganese crusts and nodules, compared to that of modern sea water[4,5]. By contrast, laboratory adsorption experiments reported preferential heavier copper sorption to iron oxyhydroxides[1]. In this study, in order to understand the mechanism of isotope fractionation involving the copper sorption to ferromanganese oxides, we would like to report an experimental observation that assosiated with adsorption of dissolved copper onto synthesized manganese oxides (δ-MnO₂) and the resulting isotope fractionation.

Adsorption experiments were carried out as a function of pH. At the end of each experiment, copper was isolated from the filtrated samples using anion exchange chromatography. Subsequently, ⁶⁵Cu/⁶³Cu of each sample was measured by using multiple collector inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (MC-ICP-MS: Nu Plasma).

The magnitude of observed copper isotope fractionation exhibited no systematic variation with pH, while concentration of dissolved copper in the residual liquid decreased with increasing pH. Lighter copper isotope (63 Cu) was preferentially adorbed onto δ -MnO₂ (Δ ⁶⁵Cu_{soln-solid} = 0.5 \pm 0.3‰) under our experimental condition (pH = 3~7). Considering natural and experimental data, it is suggested that copper isotopic composition of ferromanganese oxide is mainly affected by adsorption of lighter isotope onto δ -MnO₂.

[1]Balistrieri et al. (2008) Geochim. Cosmochim. AC. 72 311-328, [2] Sherman and Peacock (2010) Geochim. Cosmochim. AC. 74 6721-6730, [3]Little et al. (2014) Earth Planet. SC. Lett. 396 213-222, [4]Takano et al. (2016) Nature Comms. 663, [5] Albaréde (2004) Mineralogy & Geochemistry 55 409-427