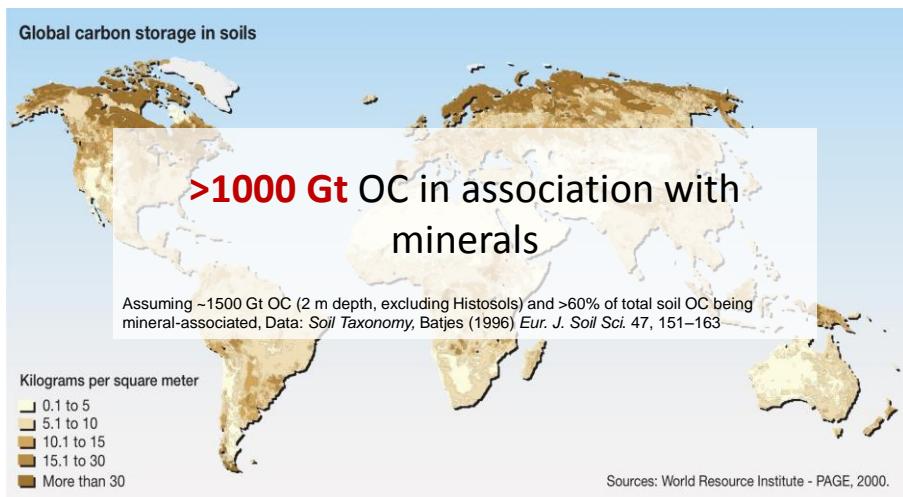


Mineral-organic Associations: Formation, properties, and functions

Robert Mikutta, Institute of Soil Science, Hannover, Germany

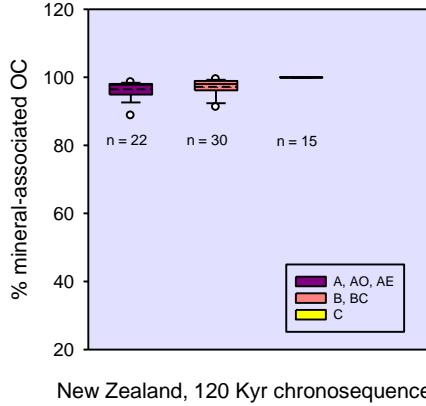


Global importance

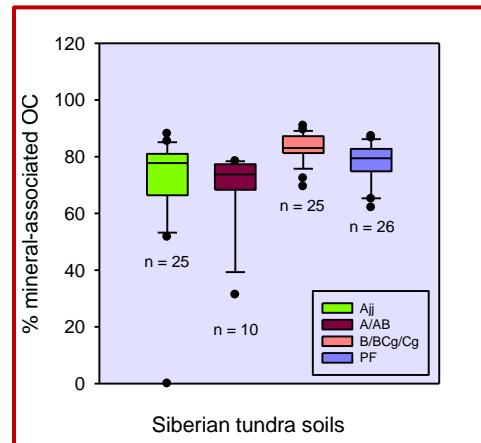


Under extreme conditions

wet (MAP 3000-6000 mm)



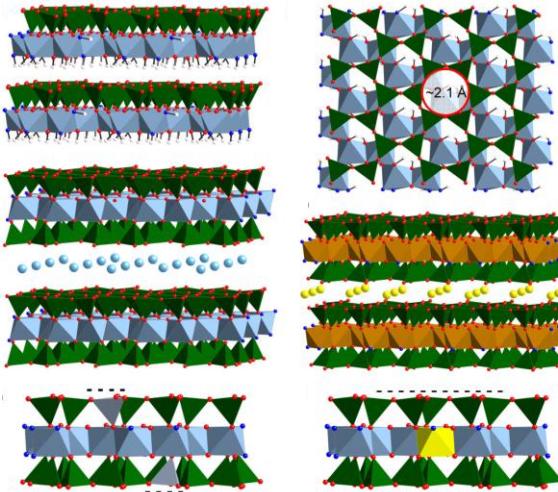
cold (MAT -12°C)



Global importance



Clay minerals



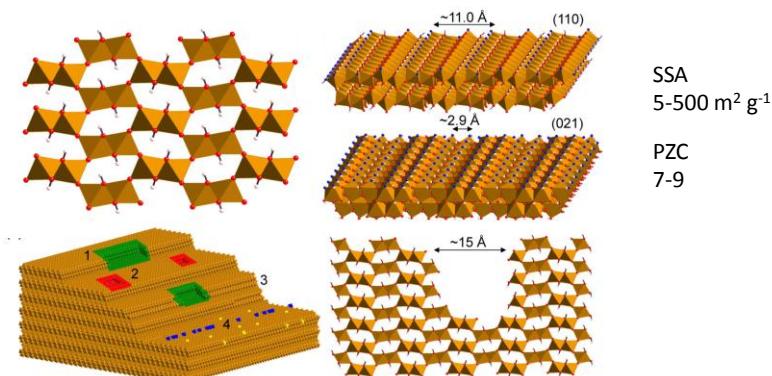
SSA
10-800 m² g⁻¹

PZC
<5

The reaction partners



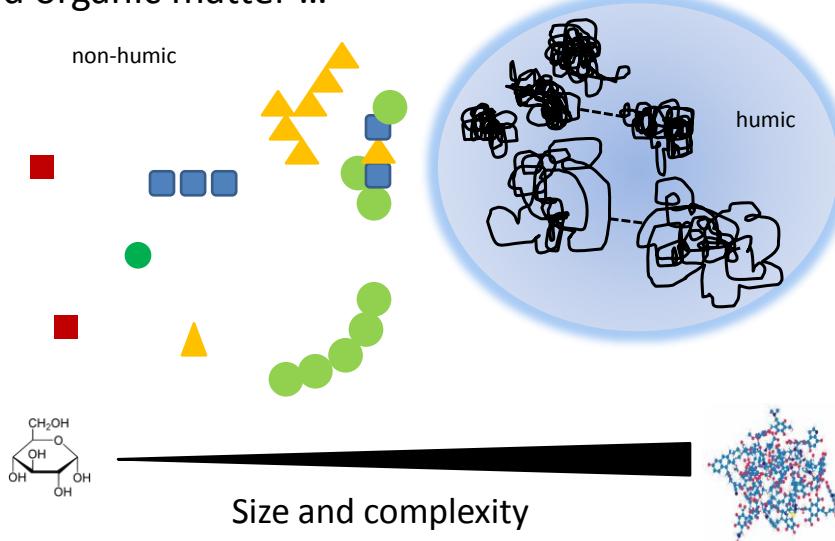
Metal (hydr)oxides



The reaction partners



and organic matter ...



The reaction partners

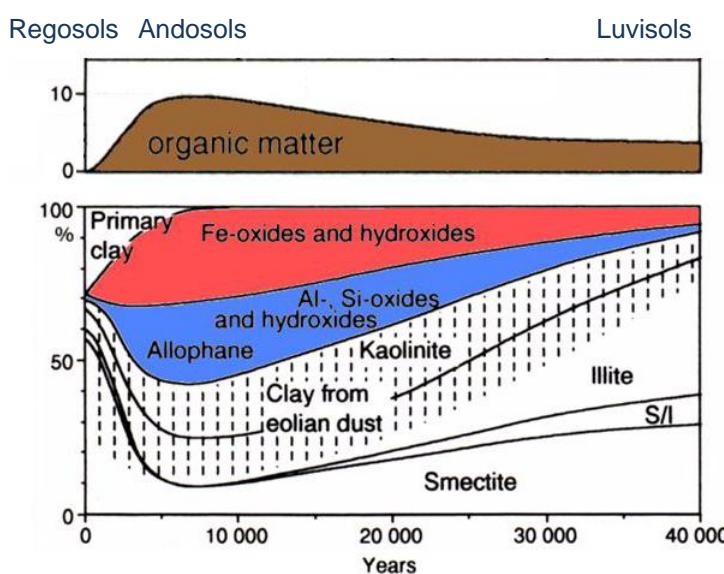
Concepts & Ideas

Krasnojarsk, 2014

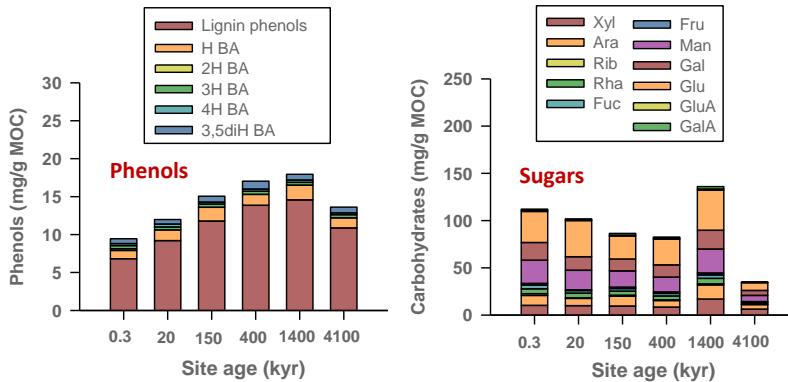
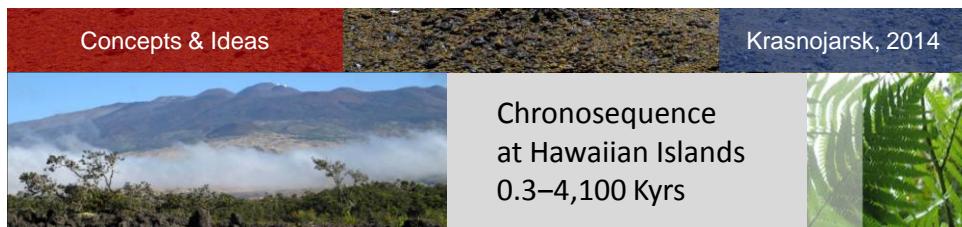
Concepts & Ideas

Concepts & Ideas

Krasnojarsk, 2014

Jahn et al. (1992) *Miner. Petrogr. Acta* 35A, 193–201

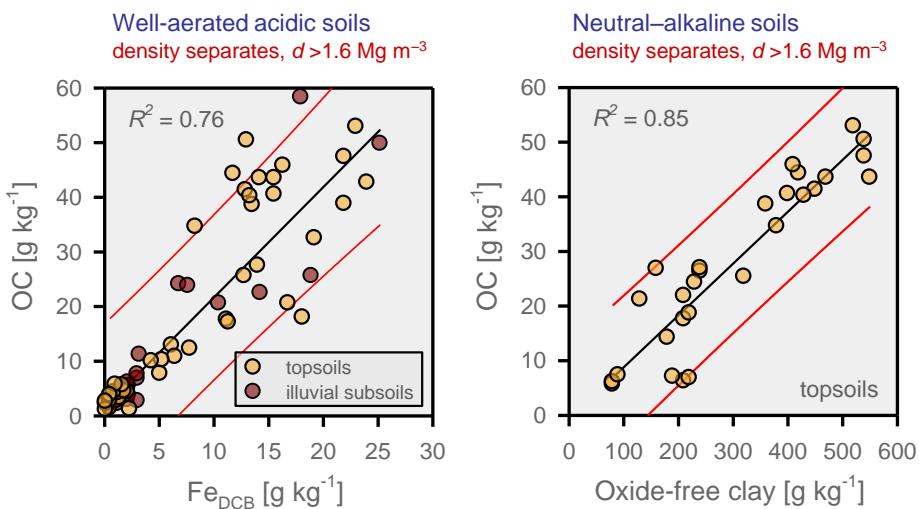
Mineral-transformations



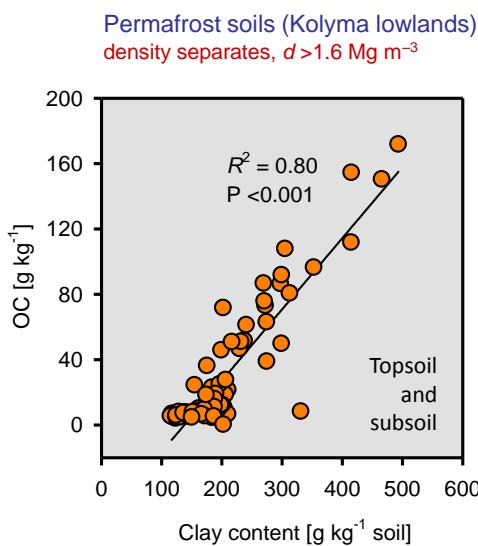
BA = benzoic acid

Mikutta R. et al. (2009) *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 75, 5122–5139

Selectivity in organic matter accumulation

Kaiser K & Guggenberger G (2000) *Org. Geochem.* 31, 711–725

Selectivity in organic matter accumulation



No correlation with
total pedogenic Fe
(DCB-extractable Fe) !

Reason: Reductive
dissolution of Fe(III)
oxides



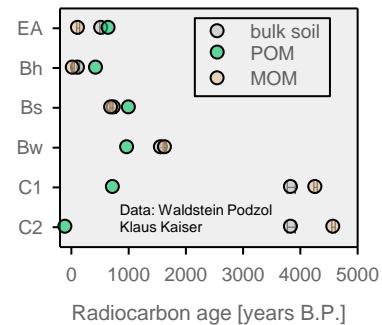
Selectivity in organic matter accumulation



Mineral	specific surface area $\text{m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$	maximum C sorption	
		mg C m^{-2}	mg C g^{-1}
Kaolinite	11–26	0.1–0.3	1.1–7.8
Illite	24–77	0.1–0.2	2.4–14.4
Vermiculite	15–70	0.1–0.2	1.5–14.0
Smectite	14–287	0.2–0.3	2.8–86.1
Hydroxy-interlayered clays	3–80	0.1–0.4	0.3–32.0
amorphous Al(OH) ₃	12–285	0.3–1.1	3.6–313.5
Gibbsite	19–63	0.1–0.5	1.9–31.5
Ferrihydrite	180–500	0.3–1.2	54.0–600.0
Haematite	4–87	0.2–1.1	0.8–95.7
Goethite	11–185	0.2–2.1	3.4–388.5
Allophane / Imogolite	280–580	0.5–0.9	140.0–522.0



Concepts & Ideas  Krasnojarsk, 2014

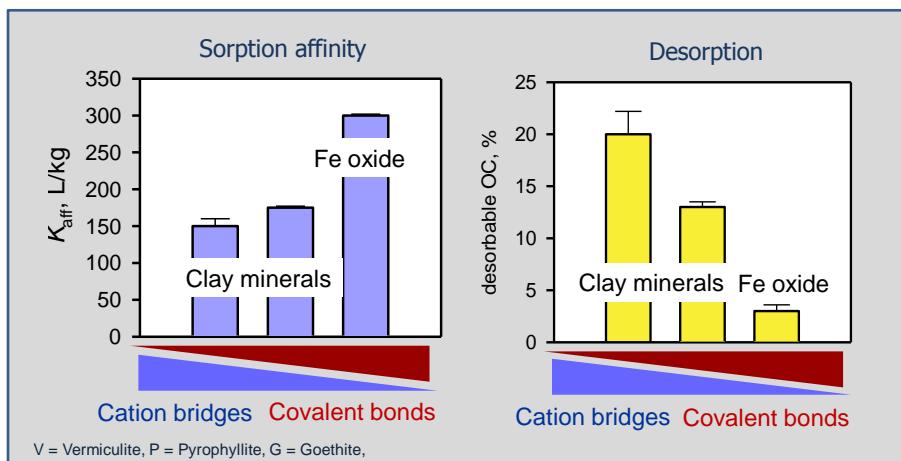


- Binding mechanisms
- Surface loading and pore clogging
- Multilayer formation

Minerals and organic matter stabilization mechanisms

Concepts & Ideas  Krasnojarsk, 2014

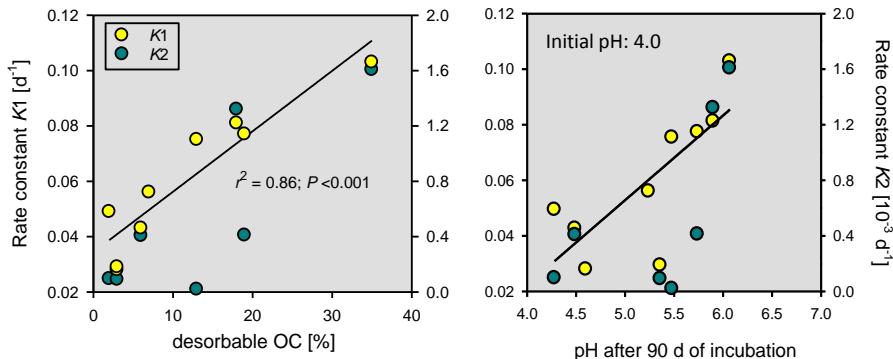
Organic matter adsorption to different mineral surfaces



Mineral surface reactivity and bonding mechanisms



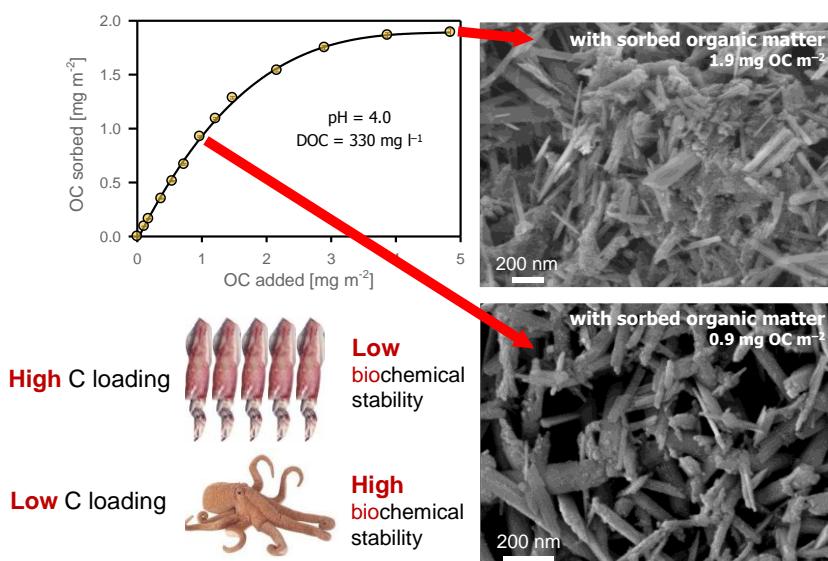
Biological stability of mineral-associated OC



Abiotic conditions control binding strength and thus mineralization

Mikutta R. et al. (2007) *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **71**, 2569–2590

Mineral surface reactivity and bonding mechanisms

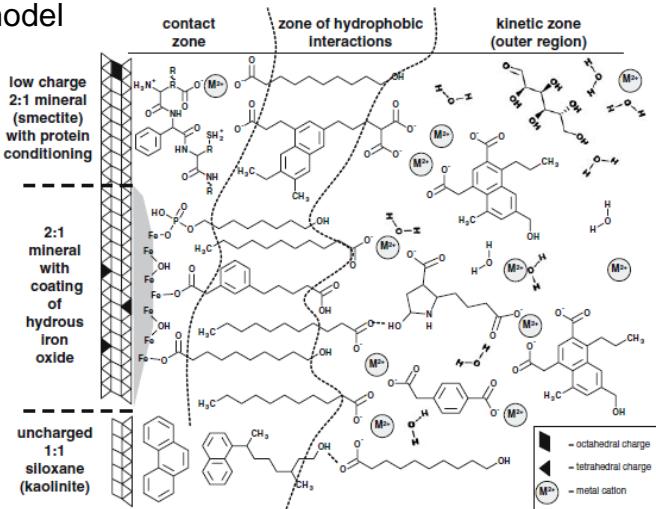


Kaiser and Guggenberger (2007) *Eur. J. Soil Science* **58**, 45–49.

Organic matter loading and octopus effect



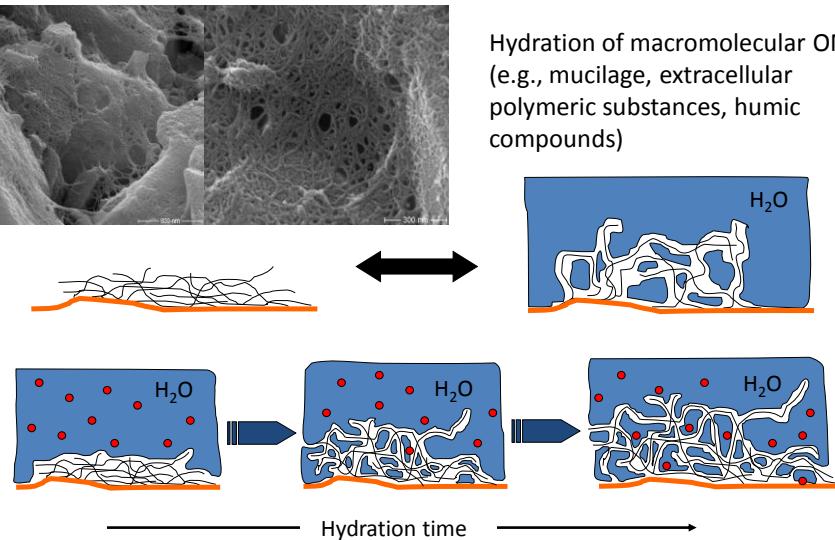
Multilayer model



Sollins et al. (2006) *Soil Biol. Biochem.* **38**, 3313–3324

Kleber et al. (2007) *Biogeochem.* **85**, 9–24

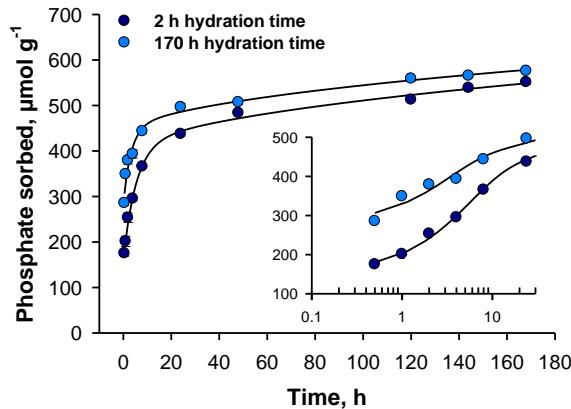
Organization of organic coatings at mineral surfaces



Organic matter flexibility: hydration effects



Phosphate sorption and organic C desorption



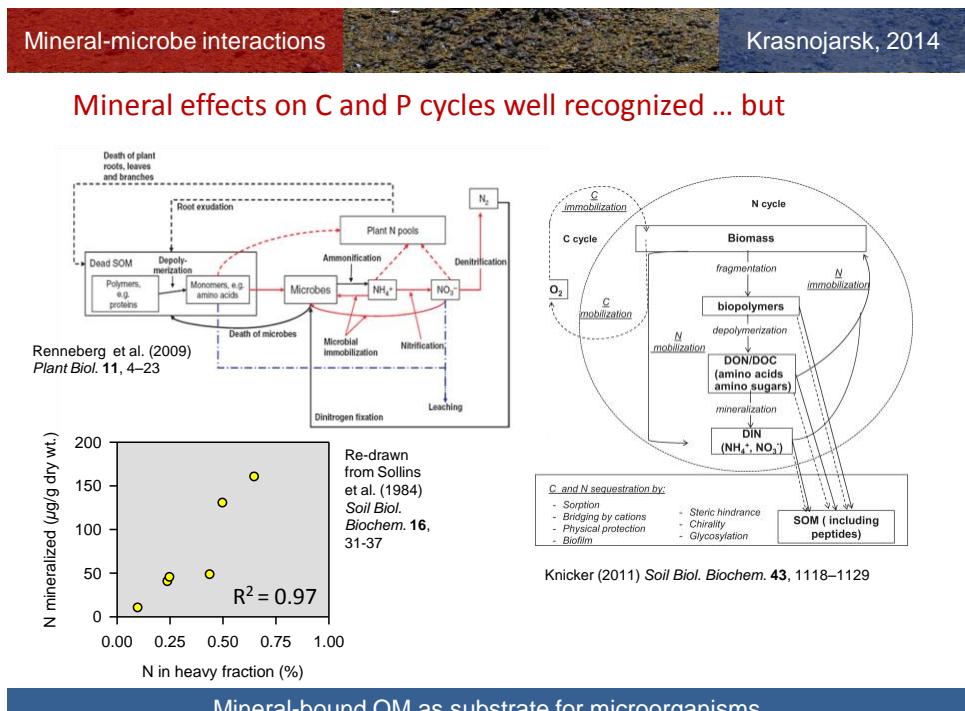
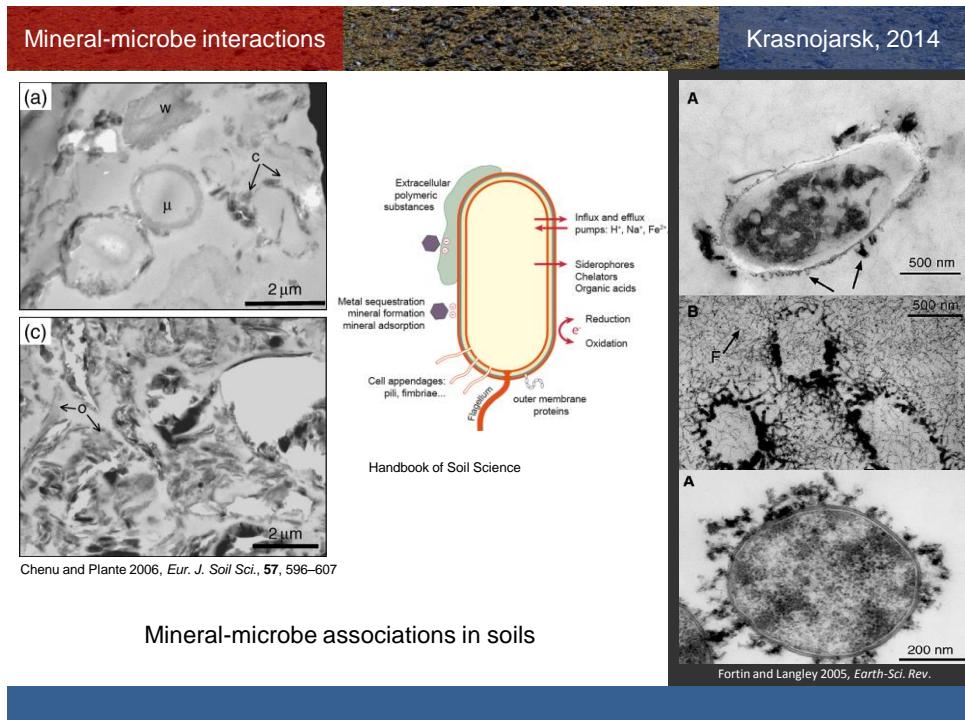
Phosphate faster accessible to external mineral surfaces after longer hydration time

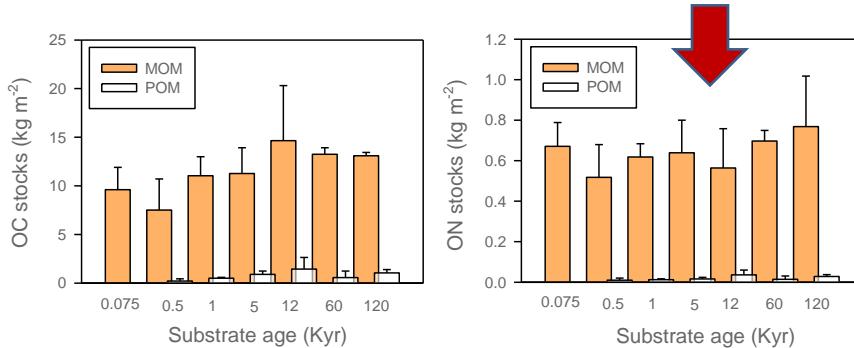
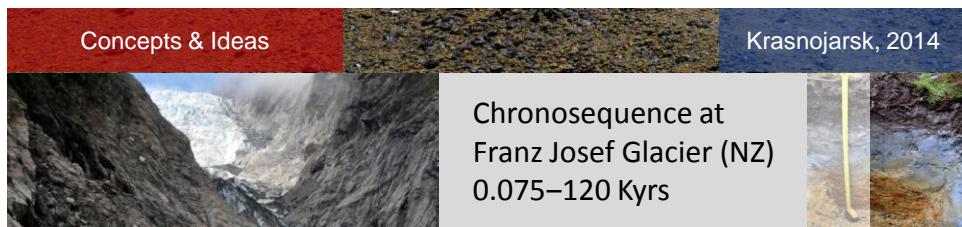
Mikutta C. et al. (2006) *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **70**, 2957–2969

Organic matter flexibility: hydration effects

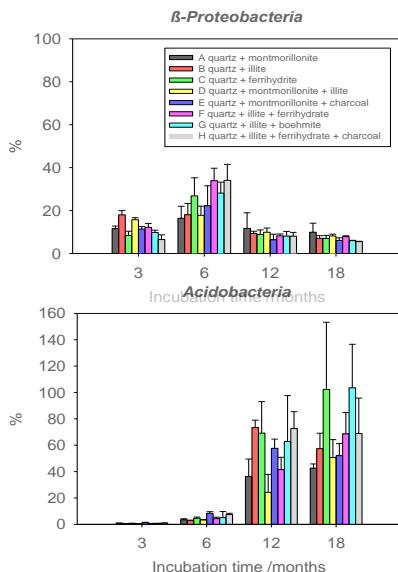


The Bio
Mineral surfaces as microbial
microreactors





Mineral-bound OM as substrate for microorganisms



Mineral surfaces cause modification of microbial community structure

- Artificial soils with added sterile manure
- Selective colonization of mineral surfaces by *r*-(β-proteobacteria) and *K*-strategists (acidobacteria)

r type: rapid growth under conditions of high resource availability

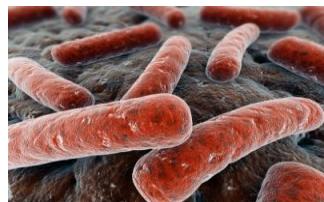
K type: lower growth rates, but higher substrate affinity

Kandeler et al. (in prep.)

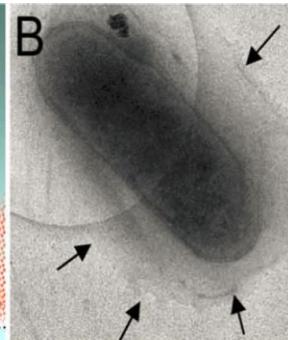
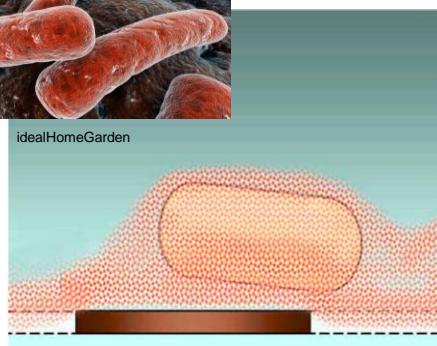
Mineral surfaces as drivers for microbial community separation



Extracellular polymeric substances (EPS)



Contribution to mineral-associated OM ?

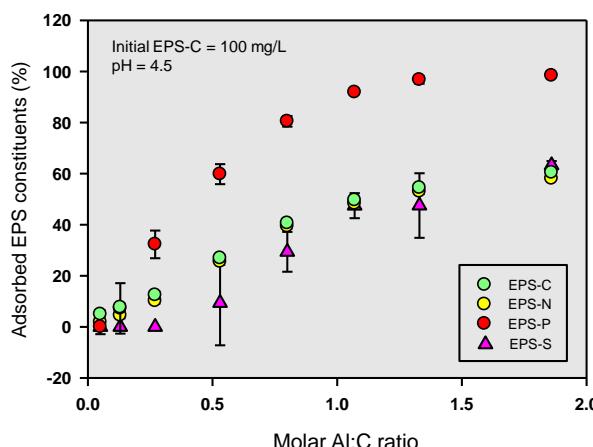


Dohnalkova et al., 2011

Microbial-derived organic matter



Extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) from *Bacillus subtilis* adsorbed to Al hydroxide

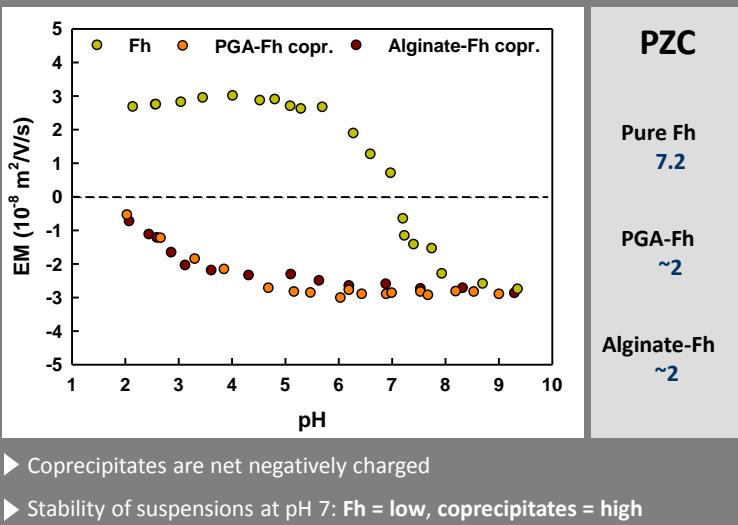


Mikutta, R. et al. (2011) *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 75, 3135-3154

Microbial-derived organic matter



Charge properties of Fh and its association with polysugars

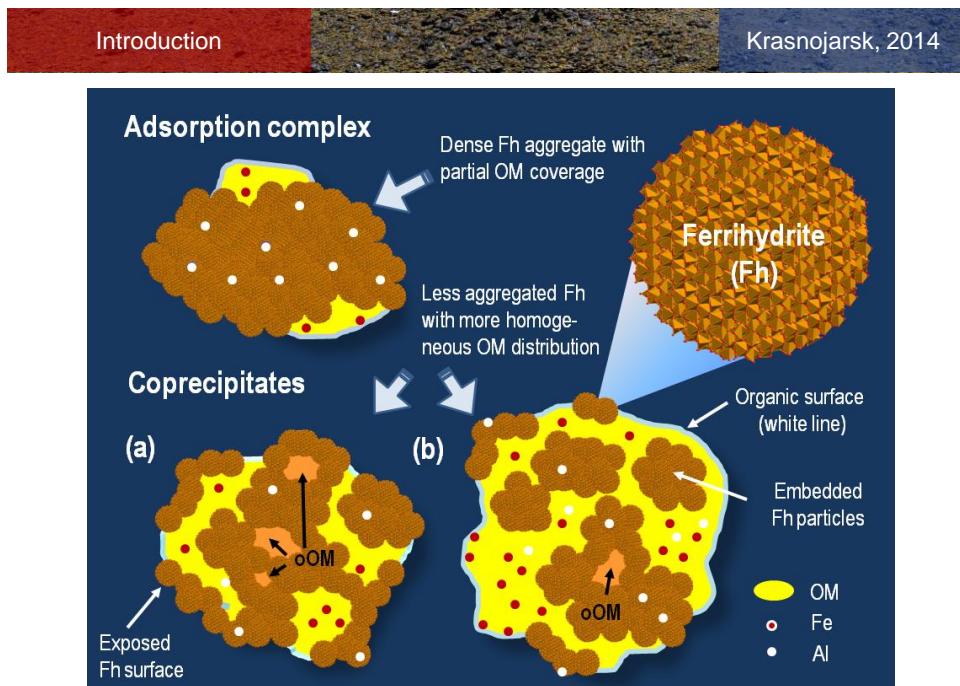
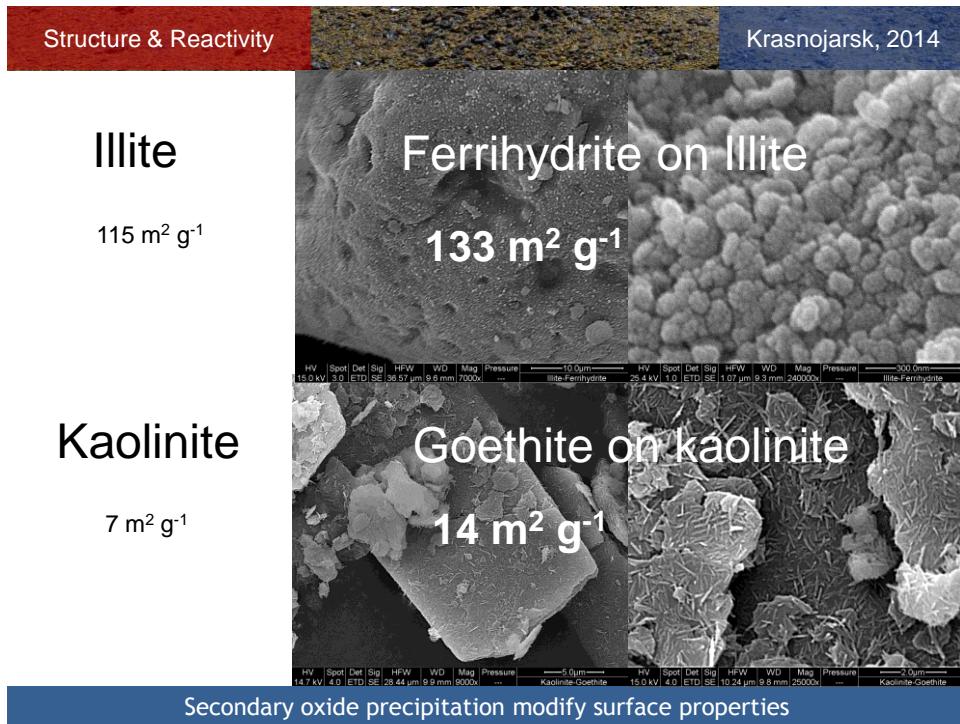


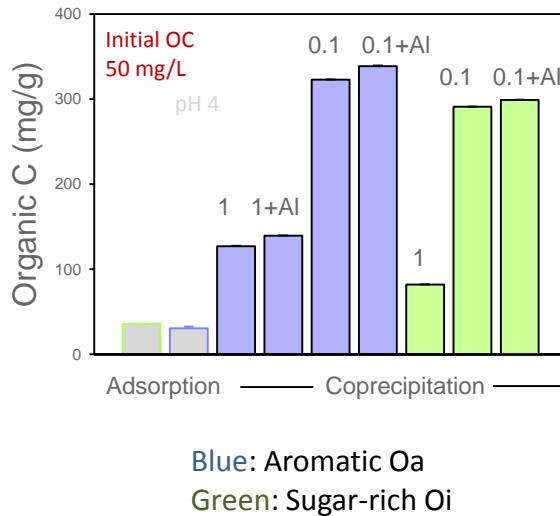
Mikutta, C. et al. (2008) *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **72**, 1111-1127

Charge effects of microbial compounds



Formation of mineral-organic associations: Coprecipitation





Adsorption versus coprecipitation



LETTER

Field evidence: Sediments

doi:10.1038/nature10855

Preservation of organic matter in sediments promoted by iron

Karine Lalonde¹, Alfonso Mucci², Alexandre Ouellet¹ & Yves Gélinas¹

The biogeochemical cycles of iron and organic carbon are interlinked. In oceanic waters, organic ligands have been control the concentration of dissolved iron¹. In soils, phases shelter and preserve organic carbon², but the in the preservation of organic matter in sediments is clearly established. Here we use an iron reduction reagent applied to soils³ to determine the amount associated with reactive iron pools in sediments. Our findings suggest that 31.5 ± 8.6% of organic carbon in sediments is directly bound to reactive iron. We further estimate that a global mass of (9–45) × 10¹² g organic carbon is preserved in surface marine sediments of its association with iron⁴. We propose that these associations between organic carbon and iron, which are formed primarily through co-precipitation and/or direct chelation, promote the preservation of organic carbon in sediments.

We propose that these associations between organic carbon and iron, which are formed primarily through co-precipitation and/or direct chelation, promote the preservation of organic carbon in sediments.

Our data also show that the traditional sorptive stabilization mechanism, which proposes that clay particles have a preservative effect on organic matter through direct adsorption on their surfaces^{4,27,28}, does not describe accurately the mode of stabilization for all organic compounds in sediments.

Evidence of interactions between iron and organic carbon in marine sediments was reported nearly 40 years ago, where concentrations of iron and organic carbon were found to covary⁵. Because both iron and organic carbon are commonly associated with clay mineral surfaces, it was simply stated that "where there is more deposited fine-grained material with high surface area for adsorption, we find more organic

carbon".

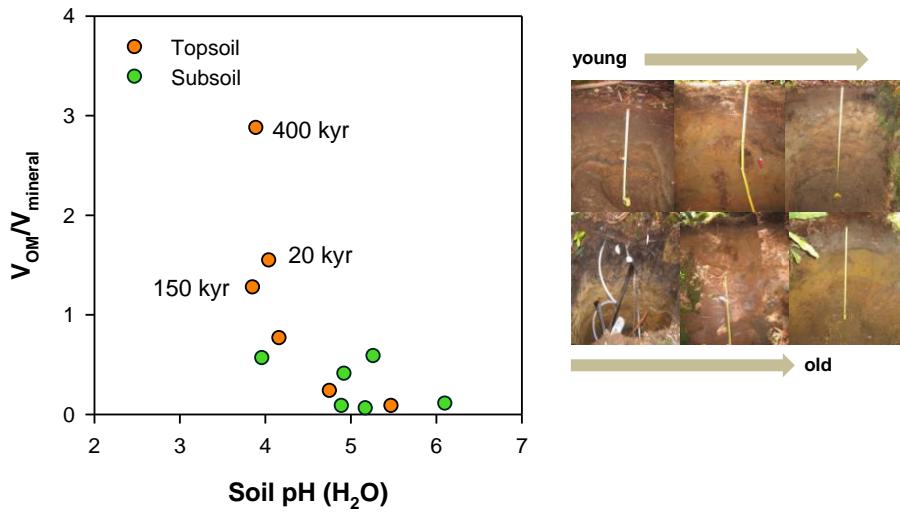
ducted at circumneutral pH using sodium bicarbonate as a buffer, thus preventing the hydrolysis of organic matter as well as its protonation and re-adsorption onto sediment particles, which occur under acidic conditions. Whereas the extraction of the same samples with artificial sea water released a negligible fraction of the total organic carbon (less than 3%; results not shown), samples treated under the same experimental conditions after substituting trisodium citrate (complexing agent) and sodium dithionite (reducing agent) for sodium chloride

Lalonde et al. (2012) Nature 483, 198-200

Coprecipitation / adsorption and organic matter stabilization



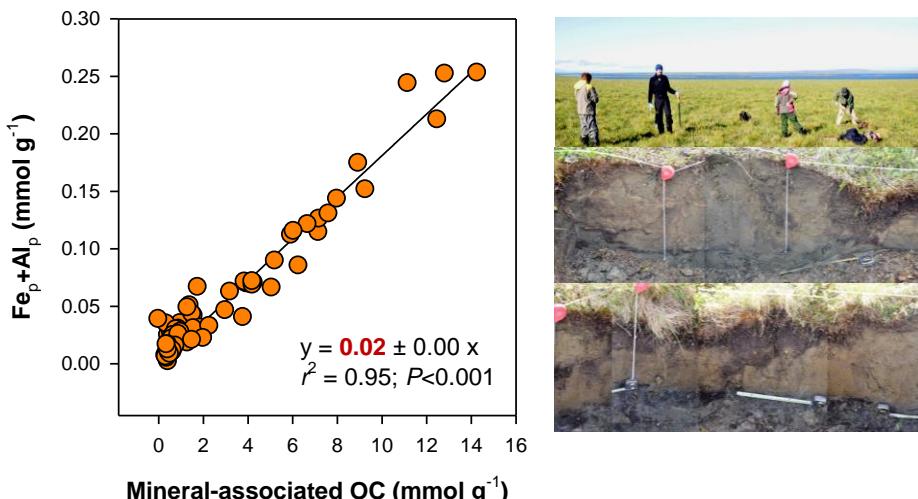
Field evidence: Hawaiian Islands



Adsorption versus coprecipitation



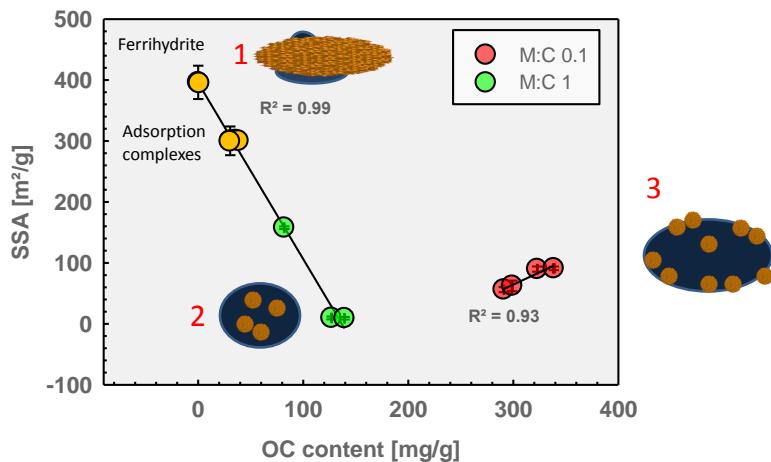
Field evidence: Permafrost soils



Adsorption versus coprecipitation



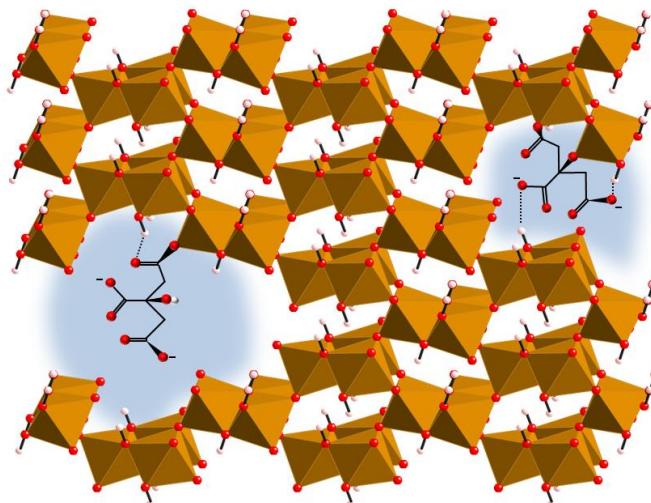
Surface properties at varying metal:C ratios



Organic matter shapes mineral phases

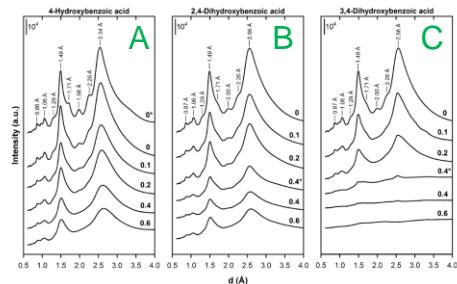
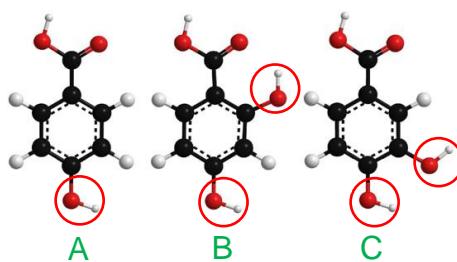


Organic matter disturbs crystallite formation



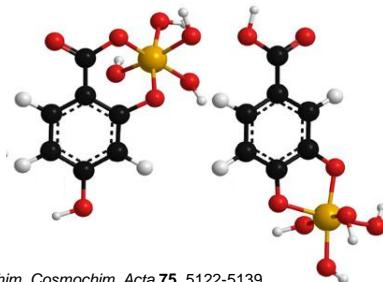
Organic matter shapes mineral phases

Structure & Reactivity | Krasnojarsk, 2014



Increase in Fe oxide crystallinity

→ not the total amount but **position of phenolic groups** influence HFO crystallization



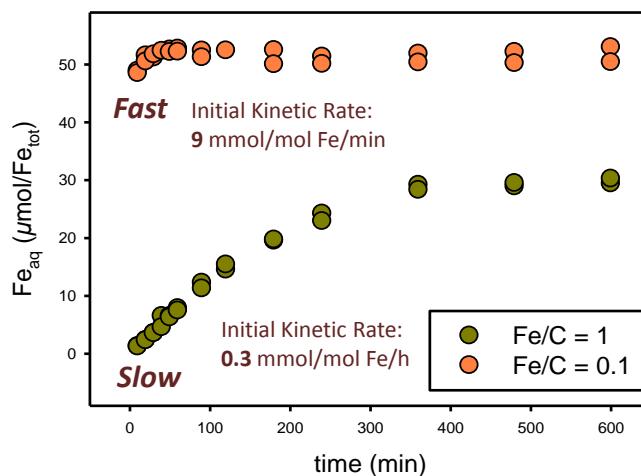
Mikutta C. (2011) Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta 75, 5122-5139

Organic matter shapes mineral phases

Structure & Reactivity | Krasnojarsk, 2014

Dissolution reactions

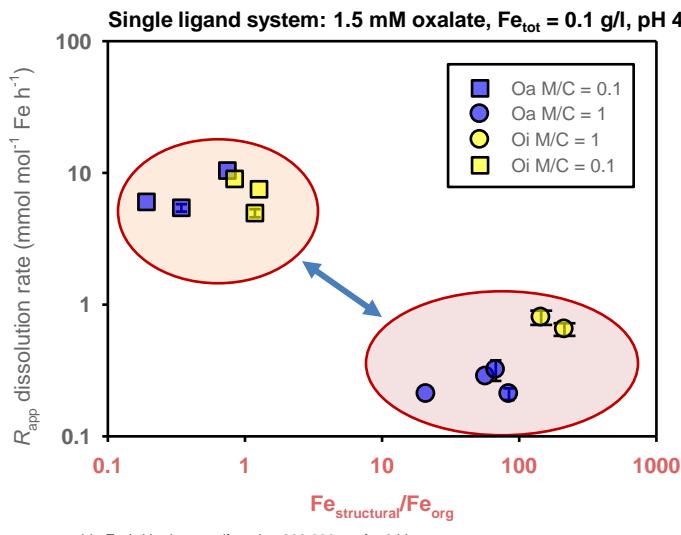
Single ligand system: 1.5 mM oxalate, $\text{Fe}_{\text{tot}} = 0.1 \text{ g/l}$, pH 4



Molar Fe/C ratio controls dissolution processes



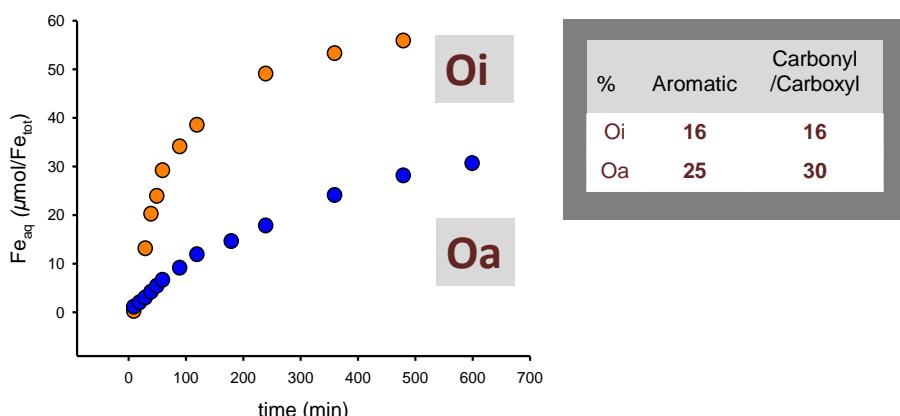
Dissolution reactions



Fe complexation mode controls dissolution processes



Dissolution reactions

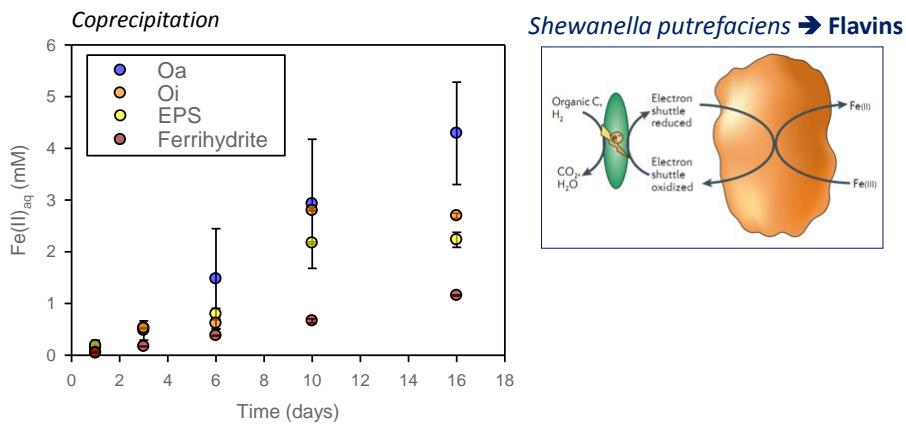


Humified OM (more acidic and aromatic) binds more strongly and blocks surface sites more efficiently than litter-derived OM („Surface passivation“)

Influence of OM source on dissolution kinetics



Dissolution reactions (especially relevant in permafrost soils)

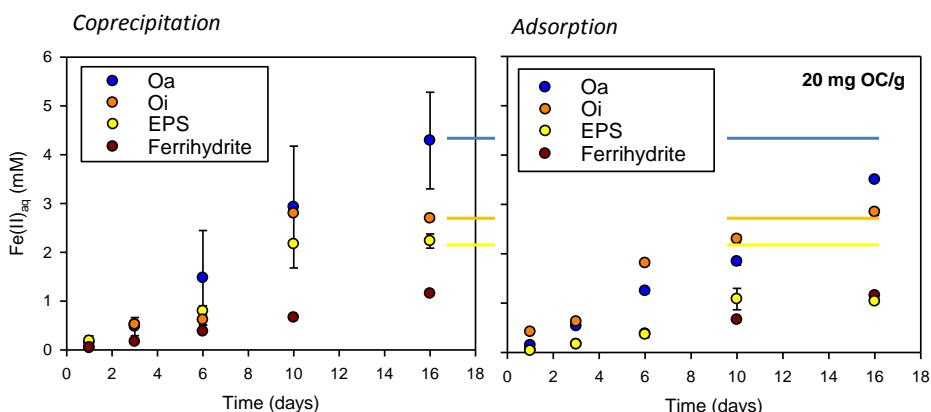


Humified OM (more acidic and aromatic) accelerates Fe reduction
→ Electron shuttling

Influence of OM source on dissolution kinetics

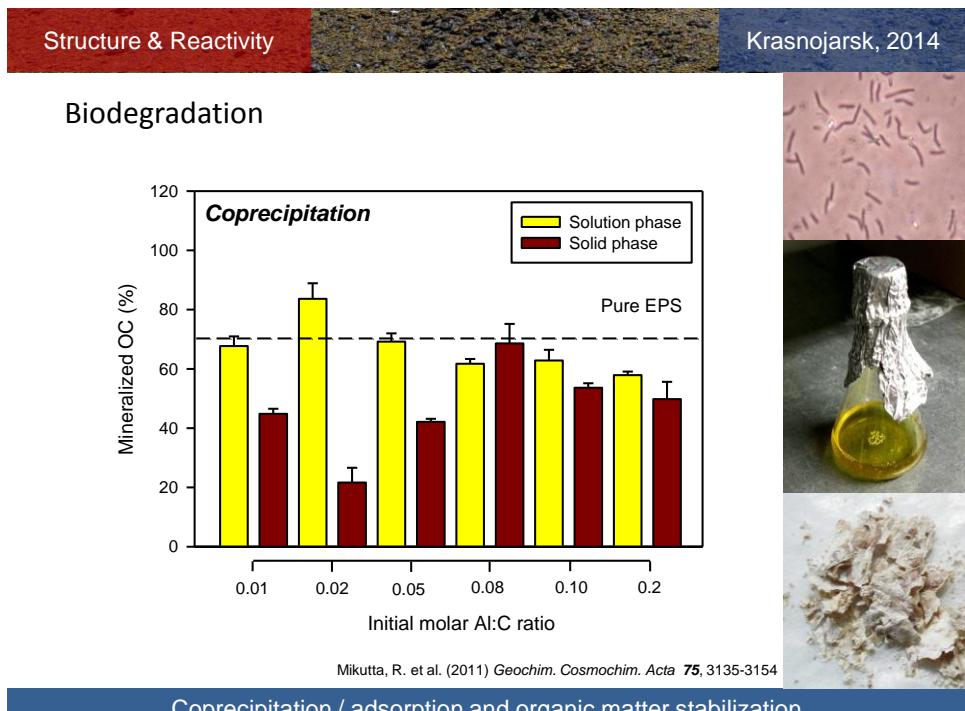
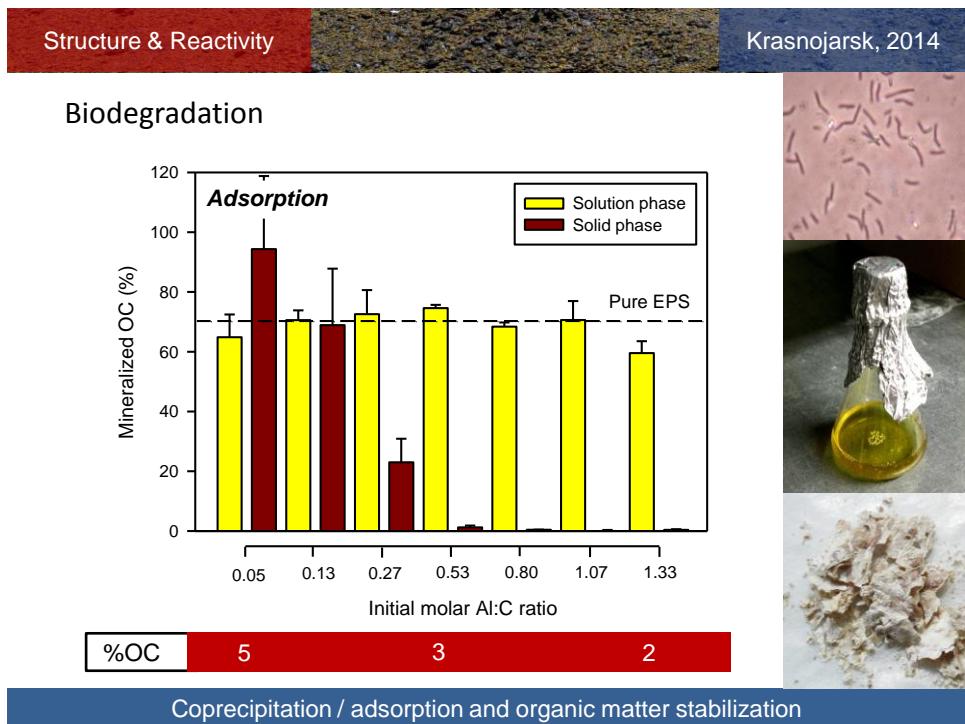


Dissolution reactions



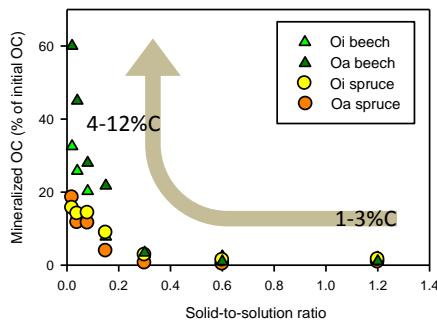
Almost similar reactivity; higher in case of coprecipitated Oa- and EPS-C

Influence of OM source on dissolution kinetics

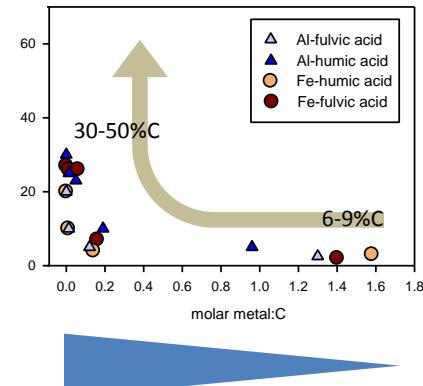


Structure & Reactivity  Krasnojarsk, 2014

DOM adsorption to Al hydroxide

(Schneider et al. 2007, *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta*)

Artificial metal-organic complexes

(Boudot et al. 1989, *Soil Biology Biochem.*)

Increasing surface OC loading

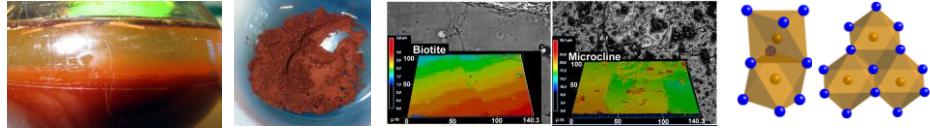
Increasing surface OC loading

Coprecipitation / adsorption and organic matter stabilization

Take-home messages

Krasnojarsk, 2014

- Minerals control OM accumulation and stabilization in many soils
- Mineralogy changes in days to millennia and thus also the capability to accumulate OM
- Minerals accumulate OM selectively and act as nutrient sink and source (organic N and P)
- Besides adsorption, coprecipitation of OM with metals (Fe, Al, Ca) plays a role in many soil ecosystems
- Minerals reduce OM mineralization but never impair the decomposition completely
- Mineral-associated OM modifies mineral reactivity (dissolution reactions)



„Thank you“

Labour input: ... many, many ...

(PhD students, technicians, collaborators)

Intellectual input: ... many