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## DETERMINING LEAD ACTIVITY IN AN EGYPTIAN ALLUVIAL SOIL USING COMPETITIVE CHELATION METHOD

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**ABSTRACT:** Lead has been emitted into atmosphere since the birth of metallurgy in ancient times and with increasing intensity since the establishment of medieval and modern industries. In the present study lead activity was measured in six alluvial soil samples which were collected from 6 successive layers (15-cm thick, each) from surface soil to 90 cm depth to identify the various Pb minerals which might control Pb activities in that soils (using constructed lead stability mineral diagrams). The Pb content decreased with increasing soil depth, ranging from 20.50  $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$  in the surface layer to 11.03  $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$  in the deepest soil sample, which mostly reflect the impact of anthropogenic influences on lead-contamination in soil. The values of  $\log \text{Pb}^{2+}$  activities varied from -4.9498 to -7.1098 and were inversely correlated with pH. The predicted relationship equation could be:  $\text{Log} (\text{Pb}^{2+}) = 9.619 - 2.111 (\text{pH})$ , indicating that lead solubility in soil decreased about 100 folds for each pH unit increase. Plotting Pb activities on the constructed stability diagram of various Pb minerals indicated the solubility of PbO being too soluble to persist under normal conditions.  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SiO}_4$  and  $\text{PbSiO}_3$  minerals in equilibrium with  $\text{SiO}_2$  (soil) or  $\text{SiO}_2$  (quartz) were too soluble to regulate  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  activities.  $\text{Pb}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$  was the most insoluble of lead phosphate minerals and controls lead solubility throughout pH range of most soils. Values of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  were lower than those maintaining by  $\text{Pb}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$  mineral. Pb- mixed carbonate and hydroxide minerals indicating that  $\text{PbCO}_3\cdot\text{PbO}$ , was too soluble to persist. Values of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  were super saturated with respect of  $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$ ,  $\text{PbCO}_3$  and  $\text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$  at 0.0003 atm.  $\text{CO}_2$ . In presence of  $10^{-3}$  M  $\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{PbSO}_4$  mineral limits Pb at  $10^{-4.79}$  M and its solubility changes one log unit per each log unit change in  $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$ . In the high-lead surface soil sample  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  activity values were maintained by  $\text{PbSO}_4\cdot\text{PbO}$  and  $\text{PbSO}_4$  ( $\log \text{SO}_4$  at -2), confirming the importance of studying environmental chemistry of the heavy metals.

**Key words:** Lead, activity, chelation, stability diagram, Pb-minerals.

## INTRODUCTION

Daunting challenges of Egypt are the problems, resulting from human activities, such as fast unbalanced population growth, undernourishment, unplanned urbanization, adverse land use, dangerous and harmful wastes (El-Gendi *et al.*, 1997; Badawy and El-Motium, 2002; Abd El-Aziz, 2014), unconscious energy consumption, heavy metal contamination created by industrial wastes (Esawy and Adel Mohamed, 2016) and from traffic emission (El-Gendi, 1994; Ahmed

*et al.*, 2015). The majority of the heavy metals are toxic to the living organisms and even those considered as essential can be toxic if present in excess. The heavy metals can impair important biochemical processes posing a threat to human health, plant growth and animal life (Kabata-Pendias and Pendias, 1992; Chibuike and Obiora, 2014).

Lead is widespread in the environment. This toxic element has been emitted into atmosphere since the birth of metallurgy in ancient times and with increasing intensity since the

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establishment of medieval and modern industries (Settle and Patterson, 1980; Sripathy *et al.*, 2015). It has been established that in most circumstances, the concentration as well as the activity of free metal ions is the key factor in determining metal bioavailability and toxicity (Alloway, 1995; Candelaria *et al.*, 1995). The ion activity of trace metals can be used in thermodynamics to describe the direction and impetus of chemical reactions such as precipitation, complexation and adsorption (Santillan-Medrano and Jurinak, 1975). There are several approaches that have been widely used to determine the free ion concentration (activity). Each method has its advantages and limitations. The electrochemical method of ion selective electrode (ISE) potentiometry is one of the most powerful methods in speciation studies because the activity of free metal ion is measured directly (Mota and Correia dos Santos, 1995). The voltammetric electrochemical methods such as anodic stripping voltammetry (ASV) and adsorptive cathodic stripping voltammetry (ACSV) provide the most direct methods for the study of trace metal speciation in low concentrations. The competitive chelation method has good sensitivity and provides estimates of ion activities (Amacher, 1984). However, chelates attain equilibrium with soils very slowly (Norvell and Lindsay, 1982; Workman and Lindsay, 1990). Accuracy of the competitive chelation method depends on the reliable estimation of chelated metal contents and reference ion concentration. The method can be successful only if the metal of interest and the selected competing metal are the principal chelated metals (Workman and Lindsay, 1990). Therefore, the main objectives of the present work were to determine the active portion of Pb in alluvial soils and to identify its various solid phases in these soils along with knowledge of their solubility and kinetic of dissolution and precipitation using stability diagrams.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Samples from Six layers from an alluvial soil from El-Kanater Horticulture Research Station (25 Km from Cairo) were taken. From each layer one composite soil sample was collected successively (at 15-cm thickness from surface layer to 90 cm depth) with a contention that deepest layer would be the least exposed to Pb

pollution. By this way six soil samples varying in Pb concentration were obtained. Main properties of the tested soils were determined by (Chapman and Pratt, 1961; Black, 1965) and listed in Table 1.

Soil pH was measured in 1 : 2 soil: water ratio using 0.01 M CaCl<sub>2</sub> as background solution to dimension the influence of ionic strength inference among the tested samples as described by Lindsay and Norvall (1978).

Pb<sup>2+</sup> activity was measured using the competitive chelation method given in details by El-Gendi (1994). This method depends on reacting soil with a series of chelate solution having different mole fractions of Pb and a competing Cd metal. A series of chelating solutions, having different mole fractions of chelate ligand (L), that is (PbL/PbL+CdL), were prepared using reagent grade diethylene triaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA), Pb(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and Cd(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. The initial PbL/ (PbL+CdL) mole fractions used varied from 0.0 to 0.3 and included five to ten different mole fractions. The DTPA concentration was fixed at 100 μM in all cases.

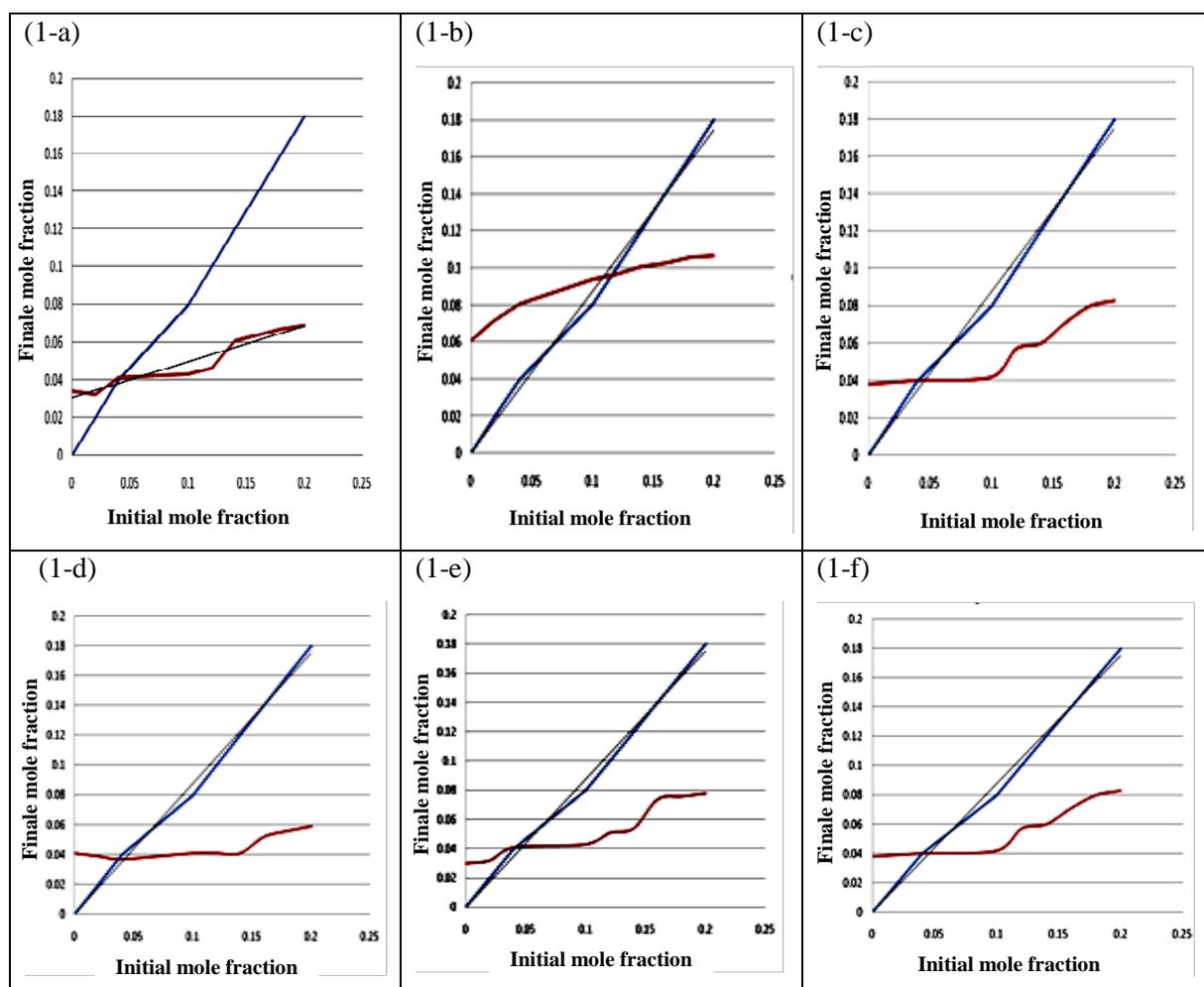
Fifteen-gram subsamples of each soil were weighed in 125 ml Erlenmeyer flasks, and 30 ml of 0.01 M of CaCl<sub>2</sub> solution having a given PbL/(PbL+CdL) mole fraction was added along with 10 mg of CdCO<sub>3</sub> to maintain a known Cd<sup>2+</sup> activity in the solution. For each soil, a blank treatment without a chelating agent was prepared by shaking 15 g of soil with 30 ml of 0.01M CaCl<sub>2</sub> solution. The Erlenmeyer flasks were then covered with perforated parafilm to allow gas exchange with the atmosphere. The suspensions were shaken for 5 days, after which pH was measured, then centrifuged, filtered and the clear supernatant were analyzed for Pb and Cd using atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

## Calculation

The final mole fraction of Pb/ (PbL +CdL) for each soil was calculated from the total soluble Pb and Cd after subtracting Pb and Cd in the CaCl<sub>2</sub> blank treatment. A graph relating initial and final PbL/(PbL +CdL) mole fractions was made for each soil, and the equilibrium PbL/ (PbL +CdL) mole fractions were obtained Fig.1, which was used to calculate Pb<sup>2+</sup> activity in the soil.

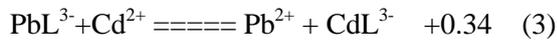
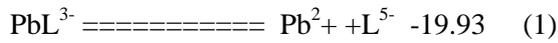
Table 1. Main properties of the investigated soil samples

Soil characteristics	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6
	(0 – 15cm)	(15– 30cm)	(30 –45 cm)	(45 – 60cm)	(60 – 75cm)	(75 – 90cm)
pH	07.12	07.35	07.24	07.36	07.30	07.37
EC ( $\mu\text{s cm}^{-1}$ )	01.37	01.46	01.41	01.38	01.42	01.43
CEC ( $\text{Cmol}_c \text{ Kg}^{-1}\text{soil}$ )	44.15	40.28	36.10	35.21	37.25	36.18
Organic matter ( $\text{gKg}^{-1}$ )	25.40	21.50	18.20	15.60	17.10	16.50
$\text{CaCO}_3$ ( $\text{gKg}^{-1}$ )	18.70	19.10	12.60	14.30	11.20	10.90
Total Pb ( $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ )	20.05	16.71	12.70	11.43	11.26	11.03
Available Pb ( $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ )	01.59	01.31	01.42	01.37	0.94	01.02

Fig. 1. Changes in  $\text{CdL}/(\text{CdL} + \text{PbL})$  mole fraction in the tested soil samples

Derivation of the equilibrium equation used to calculate  $Pb^{2+}$  activity is given as follows:

$$\text{Log } m_{0.01}$$



Where:

$k_m$  is the mixed equilibrium constant expressed in terms of concentration, except for  $H^+$ ,  $OH^-$ , and  $e^-$  which, if present, are expressed as activities (Lindsay, 1979),  $L^{5-}$  is the concentration of free DTPA, and [ ] indicate molar concentrations.

Rearranging Eq. 3; gives :

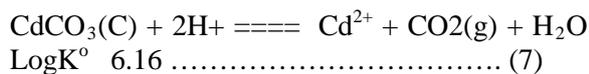
$$[Pb^{2+}] = [PbL^{3-}]/[CdL^{3-}] \times 10^{0.34} \times [Cd^{2+}] \quad (4)$$

Since the activity coefficients of  $Pb^{2+}$ ,  $Cd^{2+}$ ,  $PbL^{3-}$  and  $CdL^{3-}$  are equal; Equation 4 can be written in terms of activities, as follows:

$$(Pb^{2+}) = (PbL^{3-})/(CdL^{3-}) \times 10^{0.34} \times (Cd^{2+}) \quad (5)$$

Inputs to eq. (5) include  $(PbL^{3-})/(CdL^{3-})$  and  $(Cd^{2+})$ . Values for  $(PbL^{3-})/(CdL^{3-})$  were obtained from the measured  $[Pb^{2+}]=[PbL^{3-}]/[CdL^{3-}]$  obtained for each soil .

Since  $CdCO_3$  was added to the soil suspensions to control  $Cd^{2+}$  activity throughout the experiment and the solutions were open to atmospheric  $CO_2$ ,  $Cd^{2+}$  activity was obtained according to Lindsay (1979) as follows:



$$(Cd^{2+}) = 10^{6.16} * (H^+)^2 / CO_2, \text{ at } 0.003 \text{ atm } .CO_2$$

$$\text{Hence, } (Cd^{2+}) = 10^{9.68} * (H^+)^2 \quad (8)$$

Substituting Eq. 8 into Eq. 5 gives:

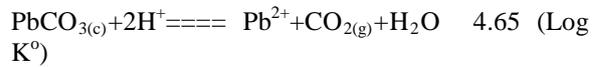
$$(Pb^{2+}) = (PbL)/(CdL) * 10^{(10.02 - 2pH)} \quad (9)$$

The pH value used in Eq.9 was the pH of the suspension closest to the equilibrium point in the initial and final mole fraction plot.

### Stability Diagrams

Lead minerals that may control the level of  $Pb^{2+}$  in soils were plotted on an equilibrium solubility diagram in terms of  $Pb^{2+}$  activity and pH (Fig. 3) using the thermodynamic data in

Table 2 taken from Lindsay (1979) to calculate the equilibrium relationships in the following manner;



$$\text{Log } Pb^{2+} = 4.65 - \text{Log } CO_2 - 2pH$$

At  $CO_2 = 0.0003 \text{ atm}$ , this equation becomes;

$$\text{Log } Pb^{2+} = 8.17 - 2pH$$

At  $CO_2 = 0.003 \text{ atm}$ , this equation becomes ;

$$\text{Log } Pb^{2+} = 7.17 - 2pH$$

The remaining minerals were plotted in same manner, meanwhile lead silicate minerals were depicted in equilibrium with  $SiO_2$  (soil) and  $SiO_2$  (quartz). Lead phosphate minerals were depicted in equilibrium various phosphate minerals which in turn depend on level of  $CaCO_3$  which in turn controlled by  $CO_2$  partial pressure.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A plot of the final  $PbL/(PbL+CdL)$  mole fraction of the filtrates against the initial mole fractions are presented from Figs. (1a to 1f). The intersected between them pointed out to the equilibrium point, where the soil sample neither gain nor loss of Pb. This equilibrium value was used in the following equation to calculate Pb activities by using the following formula; and the results are listed in Table 2.

$$(Pb^{2+}) = (PbL) / (CdL) * 10^{(10.02 - 2pH)}$$

It is clear from the Figs that at low concentrations of initial mole fraction; Pb released from the soil sample to the equilibrium solution, whereas at high concentrations; the chelate lost Pb.

As shown in Table 3 the values of  $\log Pb^{2+}$  activity varies widely among the tested soil samples; being from -4.9498 to -7.1098. Log Pb activity increased with increasing available Pb (r of 0.970, highly significant correlation).

On the other hand, as shown in Fig 2 the correlation between logarithmic  $Pb^{2+}$  activity and soil pH being very highly significant correlated ( $r=-0.997$ ) and the predicted equation is;

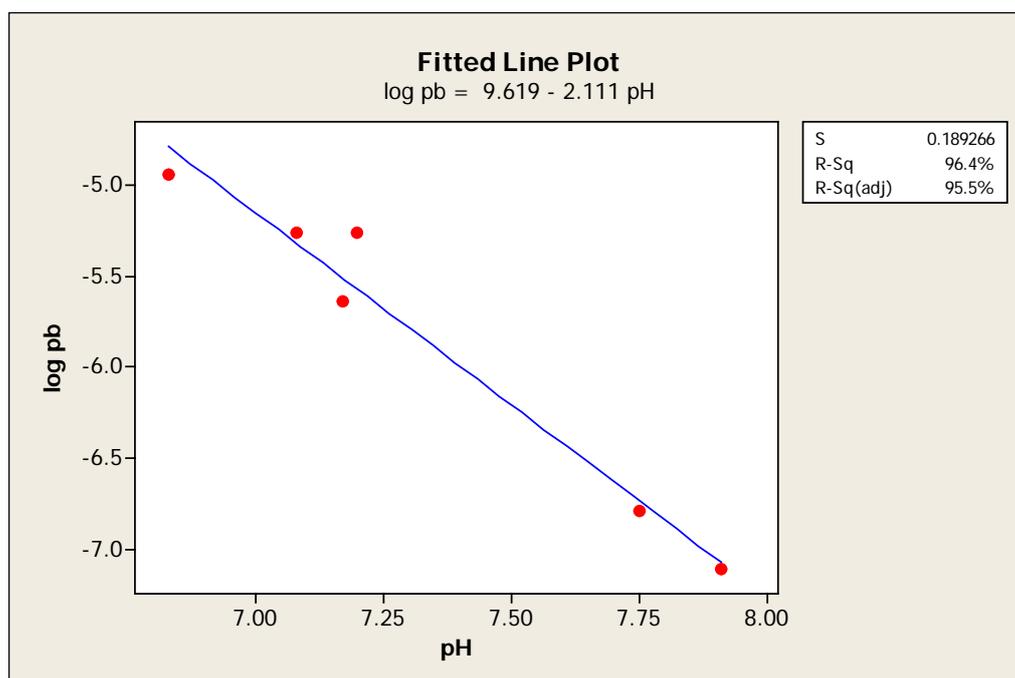
$$\text{Log Pb}^{2+} = 9.619 - 2.111(\text{pH})$$

**Table 2. The equilibrium activity constants ( $k^0$ ) of some lead minerals**

Equilibrium reaction	Log $K^0$
$\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2 + 2\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{Pb}^{2+} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	8.16
$\text{PbCO}_3 + 2\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{Pb}^{2+} + \text{CO}_2(\text{g}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	4.65
$\text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2 + 6\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons 3\text{Pb}^{2+} + 2\text{CO}_2 + 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	17.51
$\text{PbCO}_3 \cdot \text{PbO} + 4\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons 2\text{Pb}^{2+} + \text{CO}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	17.39
$\text{PbSiO}_3 + 2\text{H}^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{Pb}^{2+} + \text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4$	5.94
$\text{Pb}_2\text{SiO}_4 + 4\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons 2\text{Pb}^{2+} + \text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4$	18.45
$\text{PbHPO}_4 + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{Pb}^{2+} + \text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$	-4.52
$\text{Pb}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2 + 4\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons 3\text{Pb}^{2+} + 2\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$	-5.26
$\text{Pb}_4\text{O}(\text{PO}_4)_2 + 6\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons 4\text{Pb}^{2+} + 2\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^- + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.24
$\text{Pb}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH} + 7\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons 5\text{Pb}^{2+} + 3\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^- + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	-4.14
$\text{SiO}_2(\text{soil}) + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4$	-3.10
$\text{SiO}_2(\text{quartz}) + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4$	-4.00
$\text{CaCO}_3 + 2\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	9.74
$\text{CaHPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^- + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.63
$(\text{Ca}_3\text{PO}_4)_2 + 4\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons 3\text{Ca}^{2+} + 2\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$	10.18
$\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH} + 7\text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons 5\text{Ca}^{2+} + 3\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^- + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	14.46

**Table 3. Calculated Pb activity in the tested soil samples:**

Sample No	Soil depth (cm)	Final mole Fraction	pH eq.	Log $\text{Pb}^{2+}$
1	0 – 15	0.040	6.830	-4.9498
2	15 -30	0.100	7.200	-5.26606
3	30 -45	0.080	7.080	-5.26494
4	45 -60	0.040	7.170	-5.63876
5	60 -75	0.040	7.750	-6.7898
6	75 -90	0.040	7.910	-7.1098



**Fig. 2.** Lead activities as a function of pH for the tested soil samples

This relationship indicates that Pb solubility in the soils decreased about 100 folds for each pH unit increase.

Lead as shown in Fig. 3 forms numerous minerals including Silicate (*i.e.*,  $\text{PbSiO}_3$ -alamosite); oxides (*i.e.*,  $\text{PbO}$ -massicot,  $\text{PbO}_2$ -plattnerite); carbonate (*i.e.*,  $\text{PbCO}_3$ -Cerussite,  $\text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$  - hydroceussite,  $\text{Pb}_2(\text{CO}_3)\text{Cl}$ -phosgenite); sulfate (*i.e.*,  $\text{PbSO}_4$ -anglesite); phosphate (*i.e.*,  $\text{Pb}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$ -Pyromorphite); and halide (*i.e.*,  $\text{Pb}_2(\text{CO}_3)\text{Cl}_2$  - phosgenite) minerals.

Fig. 3 shows that the solubility of  $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$ ,  $\text{PbCO}_3$  and  $\text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$  are almost identical at 0.0003 atm.  $\text{CO}_2$ . The hydroxide  $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$  is considerably more stable at pH 8 maintaining approximately  $10^{-8}$  M Pb.

Fig. 3 also shows that the solubility of PbO are too soluble to persist under normal conditions. For example, even at pH 8, the PbO requires nearly  $10^{-3}$  M Pb for equilibrium. Plotting the measured  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  activities of the tested soils on the stability diagram as shown from Fig. 2 indicate that  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SiO}_4$  mineral in equilibrium with  $\text{SiO}_2$  (soil) or  $\text{SiO}_2$ (quartz) are too soluble to persist in the tested soils. Similar

findings also observed with  $\text{PbSiO}_3$  mineral in equilibrium with either  $\text{SiO}_2$  (quartz) or with  $\text{SiO}_2$  (soil).

Furthermore, Pb-phosphate minerals, as shown from the figure, indicated that  $\text{Pb}^{+2}$  values were lower than those maintaining by  $\text{Pb}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$ . As stated earlier by Lindsay (1979) solubility of Pb- phosphate depends on the level of p in the soil. In developing the figure, phosphate activity was fixed either by hydroxyl apatite (HA) or by tricalcium phosphate (TCP) and calcite at 0.003atm. $\text{CO}_2$ . The solubilities of the various Pb phosphate minerals decrease as phosphate shifts equilibrium from HA to TCP. On the other hand, it is obvious from Fig 3 that  $\text{Pb}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$  is the most insoluble of lead phosphate minerals and has the capability of controlling Pb solubility throughout the pH range of most soils. In soils below pH 6, Pb solubility is increased as phosphate is depressed by trivalent cations such as Fe and Al. These data tend to support the condition of Nriagu (1972) that Pb phosphate formation can serve as a sink of Pb in the ecosystem.

The Figure also shows that Pb-mixed carbonate minerals,  $\text{PbCO}_3 \cdot \text{PbO}$ , is too soluble to persist in the soil, it requires only  $10^{-6}$  M Pb for equilibrium at 0.003 atm.  $\text{CO}_2$ . On the other

hand,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  values were supersaturated with respect of  $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$ ,  $\text{PbCO}_3$  and  $\text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$

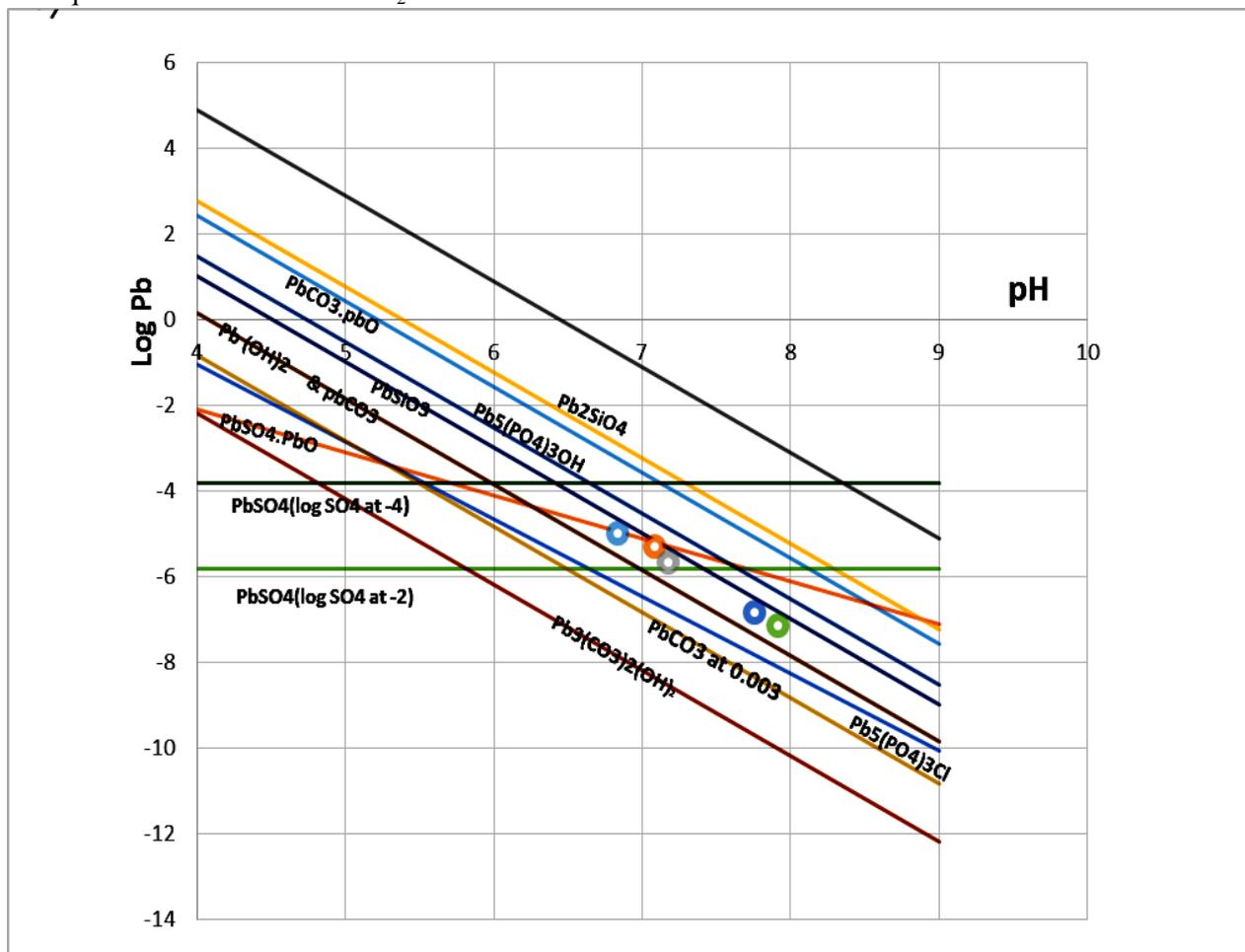


Fig. 3. Stability diagrams of various Pb- minerals

at 0.0003 atm.  $\text{CO}_2$  minerals. Hem (1973) concluded that in many natural surface waters the  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  activity was regulated by either  $\text{PbCO}_3$  or,  $\text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$ . Fig. 3 also shows that with the increasing in  $\text{CO}_2$ , carbonate minerals become more stable and *vice versa* with the decrease in reducing  $\text{CO}_2$ . Under these conditions the solubility line of the carbonate minerals will shift downwards, reflecting lower equilibrium level of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  activity (*i.e.*,  $\text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$  at  $\text{CO}_2 = 0.003$  atm).

Lead-sulphate minerals as shown from Fig. 3 indicate that In presence of  $10^{-3}$  M  $\text{SO}_4$ , mineral  $\text{PbSO}_4$  limits Pb at  $10^{-4.79}$  M and its solubility changes one log unit for each log unit change in

$\text{SO}_4^{-2}$ . The Figure also shows that in the enriched Pb- top soil samples,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  activity values were maintained by  $\text{PbSO}_4 \cdot \text{PbO}$  and  $\text{PbSO}_4$  (log  $\text{SO}_4$  at -2).

Santillan-Medrano and Jurinak (1975) reported that Pb solubility decreased in soils as pH increased. They added that in noncalcareous soils, solubility of Pb appeared to be regulated by  $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$ ,  $\text{Pb}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ ,  $\text{Pb}_4\text{O}(\text{PO}_4)_2$ ,  $\text{Pb}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{OH}$ , depending on the pH. In calcareous soils,  $\text{PbCO}_3$  also assumed importance in auto-exhausted soils. El-Gendi (1994) reported that the  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  activities were within the range maintained by the formation and /or mixture of  $\text{PbCO}_3$ ,  $\text{Pb}_4\text{O}(\text{PO}_4)_2$ ,

Pb<sub>5</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>OH, Pb<sub>3</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> at equilibrium with (hydroxy apatite) and CaCO<sub>3</sub> at 0.003 atm.CO<sub>2</sub>, and PbHPO<sub>4</sub> at equilibrium with (tricalcium phosphate) and CaCO<sub>3</sub> at 0.003 atm.CO<sub>2</sub>. This disparity in the results emphasizes studying environmental chemistry of heavy metals as well as the importance of SO<sub>4</sub> ligand in soil system as a tool for Pb remediation.

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## تقدير نشاط الرصاص في بعض الأراضي الرسوبية باستخدام طريقة الخلب التنافسي

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يعتبر الرصاص من أكثر المعادن انبعاثاً في البيئة منذ عرف الإنسان أهمية المعادن حتى انتشار الثورة الصناعية في العصور الوسطى والحديثة، تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تقدير نشاط الرصاص وكذلك التعرف على أهم المعادن المتحركة في ذوبانه في ستة عينات من الأراضي الرسوبية تم جمعها من سطح التربة حتى عمق ٩٠ سم بالتتابع (كل ١٥ سم) وذلك باستخدام طريقة الخلب التنافسي Competitive chelation method، وكذلك استخدام منحنيات الذوبان لمعادن الرصاص المختلفة للتعرف على أكثر معادن الرصاص المتحركة في نشاطه، وأوضحت النتائج أن المحتوى الكلي من الرصاص في العينات المدروسة يقل مع العمق حيث تراوحت بين ٢٠,٥ (ميكروجرام/جم تربة) في العينة السطحية إلى ١١,٠٣ (ميكروجرام/جم تربة) في العينة السفلى (٩٠ سم من سطح الأرض). مما يؤكد أن السبب الأساسي لتراكم الرصاص في الأراضي محل الدراسة هو نتيجة الفعل البشري، كذلك وأوضحت الدراسة أن قيم لوغاريتم نشاط الرصاص في العينات المدروسة تراوح ما بين (-٤.٩٤٩٨) إلى (-٧.١٠٩٨) وكانت العلاقة بين تلك النتائج وقيم الـ pH علاقة عكسية ومنتظمة مع المعادلة الآتية:  $\text{Log (Pb)}^{2+} = 9.619 - 2.111(\text{pH})$  كلما زاد الـ pH وحدة واحدة يقل نشاط الرصاص ١٠٠ ضعف، ويتوقع قيم نشاط الرصاص على منحنيات الذوبان لمعادن الرصاص المختلفة يتضح أن معدن PbO يكون أكثر ذوباناً بحيث لا يمكن تواجده في الظروف العادية، كذلك تدل النتائج أن معدن  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SiO}_4$  ومعدن  $\text{PbSiO}_3$  عند الاتزان مع  $\text{SiO}_2$  سواء كان مصدراً soil or quartz يكون أكثر ذوباناً تحت ظروف الدراسة، أما بالنسبة لمعادن الرصاص المحتوية عنصر الفوسفور تدل النتائج أن معدن  $\text{Pb}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$  كان أكثر معادن الفوسفات ثباتاً على مدى واسع من pH بينما قيم نتائج  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  كانت أقل من أن يتحكم فيها معدن  $\text{Pb}_5(\text{PbO}_4)_3\text{OH}$ ، أما بالنسبة لمعادن كربونات وأكاسيد الرصاص المختلفة يتضح من النتائج  $\text{PbCO}_3$ .PbO لا يمكن أن يتحكم في نشاط الرصاص في العينات المدروسة، في حين قيم نشاط الرصاص المتحصل عليها كانت فوق مشبعة بالنسبة لمعادن  $\text{Pb(OH)}_2$  وكذا  $\text{PbCO}_3$  و كذا  $\text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$  (عند ضغط  $\text{CO}_2 = 0.0003 \text{ atm.}$ )، أما بالنسبة لمعادن الرصاص المحتوية على كبريت تدل النتائج على أن معدن  $\text{PbSO}_4$ .PbO وكذلك معدن  $\text{PbSO}_4$  (عند تركيز  $\text{SO}_4$  قدرة ٠.٠١ مولر) يتحكمان في ذوبان الرصاص في طبقات التربة السطحية، كذلك تؤكد النتائج على أهمية دراسة البيئة الكيماوية للمعادن الثقيلة في الأراضي.