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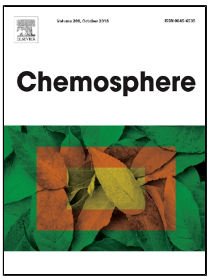

Mercury Contamination of Stream Sediments in the North Bohemian Coal District (Czech Republic): Mercury Speciation and the Role of Organic Matter

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Mercury Contamination of Stream Sediments in the North Bohemian Coal District (Czech Republic): Mercury Speciation and the Role of Organic Matter

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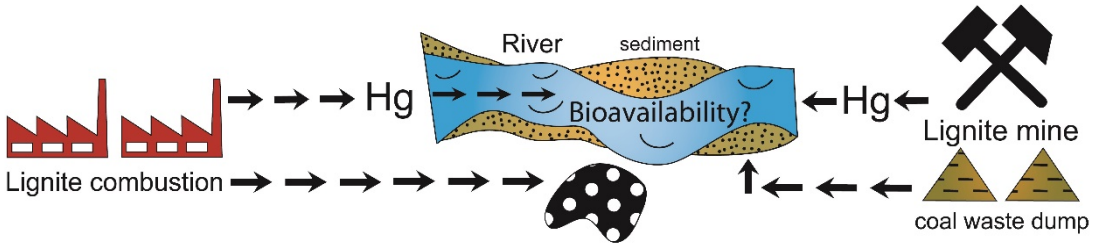
Graphical abstract



Abstract

Industrial expansion in the North Bohemian Coal District over the past decades has had an adverse effect not only on stream sediments but also on the freshwater system. So far mercury occurrence has not been properly investigated in the area. In response to this situation, the present study applies mercury quantification and speciation in order to predict the possible mobility of mercury. The enrichment factor (EF) and sediment quality guidelines (SQGs) were used to calculate the degree of mercury contamination. An automatic mercury analyser was employed to detect the total mercury content (Hg-T) and