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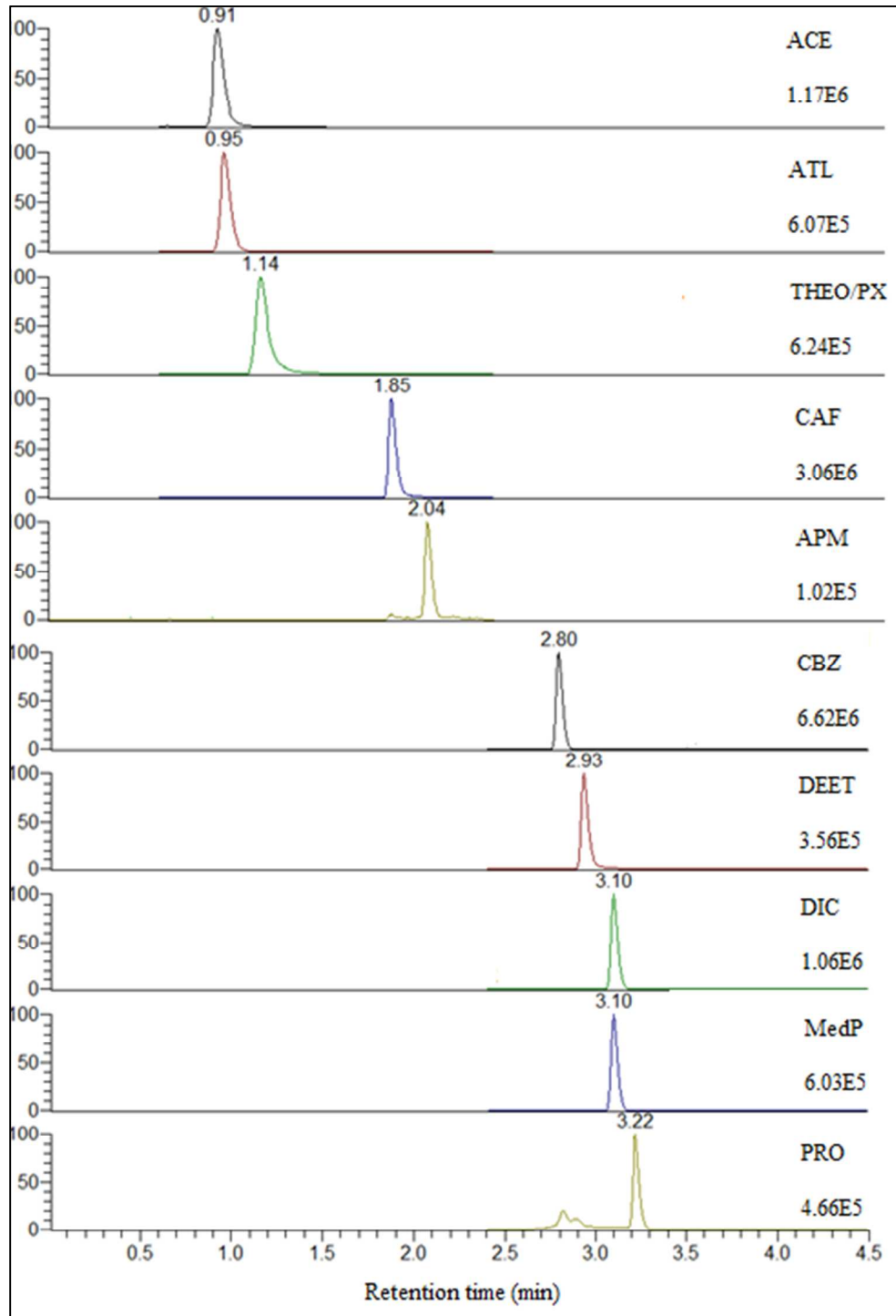


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1 Graphical abstract

- 2 This work presents the first measurement of wastewater micropollutants in combined
- 3 sewer sediments and compares with measurements from water and sediments in natural
- 4 streams.

Environmental Impact Statement

A sensitive method was developed to measure the sediment concentration of 10 wastewater micropollutants selected as potential sanitary tracers of sewage contamination. This method was applied to an investigation of stream and combined sewer overflow sediment samples that differed in organic carbon contents and particle size distributions. The ratio of the average concentration to the limit of detection (C:LOD) in sediments for a subset of compounds were compared to their C:LOD in water. In waters with a large capacity for dilution relative to fecal sources, the C:LOD in sediments were greater than in water. Thus monitoring programs for fecal source tracking using wastewater micropollutants should consider sediment sampling, particularly for waters with highly diluted sources of fecal contamination.

1 **Wastewater micropollutants as tracers of sewage contamination:**
2 **Analysis of combined sewer overflow and stream sediments**

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14

15 **ABSTRACT**

16 A sensitive method was developed to measure the sediment concentration of 10
17 wastewater micropollutants selected as potential sanitary tracers of sewage contamination
18 and include: nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (acetaminophen – ACE and diclofenac
19 – DIC), an anti-epileptic drug (carbamazepine – CBZ), a β -blocker (atenolol – ATL), a

1

20 stimulant (caffeine – CAF), a bronchodilator (theophylline – THEO), steroid hormones
21 (progesterone – PRO and medroxyprogesterone – MedP), an artificial sweetener
22 (aspartame – APM) and personal care products (N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide –
23 DEET). Natural sediments (combined sewer overflow and stream sediments) were
24 extracted by ultrasonic-assisted extraction followed by solid-phase extraction. Analyses
25 were performed using ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass
26 spectrometry (UHPLC-MS/MS) using atmospheric pressure chemical ionisation in
27 positive mode (APCI+) with a total analysis time of 4.5 min. Method detection limits
28 were in the range of 0.01 to 15 ng/g dry weight (dw) for the compounds of interest, with
29 recoveries ranging from 75% to 156%. Matrix effects were observed for some
30 compounds, never exceeding $|\pm 18\%|$. All results displayed a good degree of
31 reproducibility and repeatability, with relative standard deviations (RSD) of less than
32 23% for all compounds. The method was applied to an investigation of stream and
33 combined sewer overflow sediment samples that differed in organic carbon contents and
34 particle size distributions. Acetaminophen, caffeine and theophylline (as confounded with
35 paraxanthine) were ubiquitously detected at 0.13-22 ng/g dw in stream bed sediment
36 samples and 98-427 ng/g dw in combined sewer overflow sediment samples. Atenolol
37 (80.5 ng/g dw) and carbamazepine (54 ng/g dw) were quantified only in combined sewer
38 overflow sediment samples. The highest concentrations were recorded for DEET (14 ng/g
39 dw) and progesterone (11.5 ng/g dw) in stream bed and combined sewer overflow
40 sediment samples, respectively. The ratio of concentration to its limit of detection
41 (C:LOD) in sediments for a subset of compounds were compared to their C:LOD in

42 water. In waters with a large capacity for dilution relative to fecal sources, the C:LOD
43 ranges in sediments were greater than in water. Thus monitoring programs for fecal
44 source tracking using wastewater micropollutants should consider sediment sampling,
45 particularly for waters with highly diluted sources of fecal contamination.

46

47 **Keywords**

48 Fecal source tracking; Sewer cross-connections; Wastewater micropollutants; Ultrasonic-
49 assisted extraction; APCI-MS/MS.

50

51 **1. Introduction**

52 Wastewater micropollutants (WWMPs) have the potential to produce detrimental effects
53 in the environment [1]. Their presence in various matrices such as wastewater influents
54 and effluents, combined sewer overflow (CSO) effluents, surface waters, sources of
55 drinking waters and public water supply has been widely documented [2-13]. Recent
56 research has indicated that while some compounds displace easily within the water
57 column, others are hydrophobic and have a tendency to adsorb onto sediments [14-22].
58 Thus, to account for and bring both hydrophylic and hydrophobic compounds into
59 consideration, it is necessary to sample the water column and bed sediments. Water
60 samples and sediments were also analysed to source track fecal sewage pollution in
61 discharges into aquatic environment [1, 23, 24]. Measured concentrations of WWMPs
62 normally vary from ng/L to µg/L (water samples) or ng/g to µg/g (sediment samples) [25-

63 35]. However, their concentrations remain unknown in CSO sediments which play a role
64 of vector for WWMPs [36] in sewer systems. Such data are needed for investigating the
65 contribution of storm waters and combined sewer overflows to the accumulation of fines
66 and associated contaminants in the bed sediments of the receiving streams. Such
67 deposited sediments could also contribute to the desorption of sorbed contaminants into
68 receiving waters. The perturbations in contaminant inputs caused by combined sewer
69 overflow (CSO) events can disrupt steady-state conditions and could confound the use of
70 wastewater tracers [2]. Furthermore, knowledge about the concentrations of WWMPs in
71 stream sediments is also necessary to understand the routing, transport and fate of these
72 contaminants in the environment and for estimating their persistence and environmental
73 risks.

74 There are no standard methods for extraction, elution, concentration and detection for
75 many compounds. To identify and measure WWMPs in sediments, adequate analytical
76 methods with sufficiently low detection limits need to be developed, due to the high
77 sulphur content of anoxic sediments and the potentially high contaminant loadings [37].
78 LC–MS/MS has become the preferred analytic technique for determining polar
79 environmental pollutants [38-40]. Atmospheric pressure chemical ionisation (APCI) is
80 employed in a few studies but its use has increased since it seemed to be less prone to
81 matrix effects than standard electrospray ionization (ESI) [41-43]. It is commonly used as
82 an interface for the LC–MS analysis of medium and low polarity substances [44-46].

83 It is nearly impossible to analyse all WWMPs. A preselection of target analytes is
84 therefore crucial in developing an index of human fecal pollution. The standards for

85 preselection that must be considered for WWMPs are: extensive and increased annual use
86 (3–4% by weight per annum) [47], dissimilar structural and physico-chemical properties,
87 pharmacokinetic behavior, frequent detection in wastewaters, some affinity with solids,
88 potential toxic effect doses/concentrations, relative environmental persistence, usage as
89 anthropogenic waste indicators (AWIs) and presence at trace concentrations in real
90 samples, hence requiring more advanced and laborious analytical tools for their accurate
91 determination.

92 Given that our focus is to find good tracers of anthropogenic impact on waters and
93 sediments, we have chosen to focus on ten WWMPs belonging to the following groups:
94 β -blockers, analgesics, anti-inflammatory drugs, stimulants, diuretics, a sweetener, an
95 antiepileptic drug, personal care products and hormones (see details in the Supplementary
96 material section).

97 The objectives of this study were to: (1) develop a sensitive method for the separation and
98 quantification of WWMPs in different types of solids (e.g., sewer and stream sediments)
99 based on an ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography–atmospheric pressure
100 chemical ionization tandem mass spectrometry (UHPLC–APCI–MS/MS), (2) compare
101 concentrations in sediments with concentrations in water to evaluate the use of sediment
102 sampling for fecal source tracking.

103 2. Methods and materials

104 2.1 Description of study sites

105 Five study sites were selected for the analysis of sediments and water: two urban streams
106 (US₁ and US₂), a large river (US₃), an urban drinking water supply canal and 1 CSO
107 which is discharged upstream of the sampling site (US₃). The two small ungauged urban
108 streams in the Greater Montréal Area with mean measured dry weather flow rates of less
109 than 0.1 m³/s were selected because of elevated dry weather fecal indicator bacteria
110 (*Escherichia coli* concentrations greater than 400 MPN/100 mL) potentially contaminated
111 from cross-connected sewers. Both urban streams are upstream of drinking water
112 supplies. The large river with a mean flow rate of 1000 m³/s is used for drinking water
113 supply as described by Madoux-Humery *et al.* [48] and receives discharges from storm
114 sewers and combined sewer overflows. The selected CSO receives a mixture of sewage
115 and precipitation primarily from foundation and roof drains. The CSO consists of a 355
116 mm round pipe draining into a chamber with an overflow structure that channels flow to a
117 450 mm round pipe draining to a separate storm sewer. The urban canal was selected as a
118 site with very low concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (dry weather concentrations
119 generally less than 50 MPN/100 mL) with suspected inputs of sewage from sewer
120 exfiltration. Details regarding the urban canal including WWMP results are available in
121 Guérineau *et al.* [23] and are presented in this study for method validation and evaluation
122 of WWMPs in sediments as tracers for field sites with varying degrees of fecal
123 contamination.

124 **2.2 Apparatus**

125 The system set-up for analysis of WWMPs is described in Supplementary material.

126 **2.3 Procedure**

127 **2.3.1 Sample collection and pretreatment**

128 Sediment samples were collected from the upper 3 cm of the stream bed in urban streams
129 (US₁) ($n = 5$), (US₂) ($n = 11$), (US₃) ($n = 5$), in canal ($n = 15$) and CSO (C, $n = 3$) in the
130 Greater Montréal area. They were taken during dry weather in the summer and fall of
131 2011 and 2012. Samples were collected in 1-L pre-cleaned amber glass jars and kept cold
132 on ice during transport to the laboratory. Upon arrival, sediment samples were
133 homogenized, divided into several sub-samples, sealed in polypropylene jars, wrapped
134 with aluminium foil, and stored at -20 °C.

135 Surface water samples were collected under different hydraulic conditions. Samples were
136 taken in clean bottles (capacity 1 L) typically up to 30 cm depth, and filled up to the top
137 to eliminate air bubbles. Forty one surface water samples were collected from urban
138 streams (US₁) ($n = 10$), (US₂) ($n = 11$), (US₃) ($n = 20$) under dry weather conditions and
139 fifty eight samples under wet weather conditions (US₁) ($n = 30$), (US₂) ($n = 6$), (US₃) ($n =$
140 28). Water samples were filtered and stored at 4 °C after adding formic acid as a
141 preservative (see details in Madoux-Humery *et al.* [48]).

142 Physico-chemical and microbial analysis of the samples (detailed data not shown)
143 revealed a clear sanitary contamination of the waters and sediments.

144 **2.3.2 Sediment sample extraction**

145 Preparation and spiking of sediment samples are detailed in Supplementary material. The
146 final optimized method for simultaneous extraction of 10 selected WWMPs used various
147 extraction solvents. Sediment samples were successively extracted with 4 and 2 mL of
148 the mixture of methanol/water (9:1, v/v, pH 11), followed by two extractions using 2 mL
149 of acetone and ultimately with 4 mL of water with 0.1% formic acid (pH 2.65). There
150 was five operating cycles in the extraction process. In each extraction step, the sample
151 was vigorously vortexed for 1 min, ultrasonicated for 20 min in an ultrasonic bath
152 (frequency 40 KHz, Branson 5510, Connecticut, USA) at 30 °C and centrifuged at 4000
153 g for 10 min. The supernatants obtained from each extraction step were combined,
154 filtered using a 0.2- μ m polypropylene syringe filter and concentrated to dryness by
155 evaporation under a nitrogen stream. After the addition of 250 μ L of methanol, the
156 extract was diluted to 10 mL with HPLC Grade water (UPW) adjusted to pH 7 with
157 sodium hydroxide 0.5 M and subjected to the SPE procedure. The developed extraction
158 method with previously developed method for stream sediment analysis was also applied
159 to CSO sediments.

160 **2.3.3 SPE procedure: Cleanup and preconcentration**

161 To reduce matrix interference, further cleanup of sediment samples is normally required.
162 In this study, specific solid phases were used as a clean-up and preconcentration
163 treatment. Generally, polymeric adsorbents have a higher adsorption capacity than C18
164 adsorbent for polar analytes [19, 39, 49-58]. As indicated above, SPE cleanup was
165 performed using an Oasis HLB cartridge (30 μ m, 60 mg/3 cc). The cartridge was

166 preconditioned successively with 3×1 mL of methanol and UPW prior to sample load.
167 After sample passage, the cartridge was washed with 10 mL of UPW and dried under
168 vacuum for 30 min. The analytes were then eluted successively with 1 mL of methanol
169 and 1 mL of 0.5 M formic acid–methanol mixture. The eluate was evaporated to dryness
170 under a gentle stream of nitrogen. The residue was dissolved with the initial mobile phase
171 condition (0.5 mL). Before analysis, 2 μ L of instrument internal standard containing 5
172 isotope-labeled compounds (1 mg/L) was added to correct for variations in sample
173 recovery and instrumental performance [59].

174 **2.3.4 Analytical methods**

175 The optimized method was applied to the determination of WWMP concentrations in
176 CSO and stream sediment samples. The four WWMPs (ACE, THEO, CAF and CBZ)
177 selected by Madoux-Humery *et al.* [48] were analysed during this study in surface water
178 samples by an on-line solid-phase extraction combined with liquid chromatography
179 electrospray tandem mass spectrometry with positive electrospray ionisation (SPE-LC-
180 ESI-MS/MS) [48]. Detailed information on preservation and analytical methods are
181 published and available [48, 60]. Detection limits were estimated as three times the
182 standard deviation of 5 replicate measurements of a field sample and were 10 ng/L for
183 ACE, 6.50 ng/L for CAF, 6 ng/L for THEO and 0.52 ng/L for CBZ. All samples were
184 analyzed in duplicate.

185 **3. Results and discussion**

186 **3.1 Optimization of UHPLC–APCI–SRM/MS analysis and quantification**

187 Atmospheric pressure chemical ionisation tandem mass spectrometry provides high
188 sensitivity and selectivity for the identification and quantitative analysis of selected
189 compounds. The collision gas pressure and the offset energy for the collision quadrupole
190 Q2 were two important factors for determining the major product ion intensity for each
191 compound; they were optimized at 1.5 mTorr and between 13 and 27 eV, respectively
192 (Tables S3 and S4, Supplementary material).

193 The separation of the ten studied compounds occurred within 3.6 min with good
194 resolution and the total run time was 4.5 min. Detailed description and discussion of the
195 optimization of UHPLC–APCI–SRM/MS method are included in Supplementary
196 material.

197 **3.2 Optimization of extraction and SPE steps**

198 Our study was carried out on the most relevant parameters that affect the recovery of
199 target compounds (e. g. extraction solvent, cycle number, contact time and temperature of
200 sonication, sample pH, type of SPE sorbent and volume and type of elution solvent).
201 Detailed description and discussion of the optimization of extraction and SPE steps are
202 included in Supplementary material.

203 The developed method (see Methods and materials) was applied to CSO sediment
204 samples. The results of quantitative extraction showed that 63– 122% of the total
205 extractable amounts in both sediment samples with the exception of atenolol (46% from

206 stream sediment) and aspartame (53% from CSO sediments) were recovered in the first
207 five cycles (Figure 1). In a subsequent extraction step with 2 mL of acidified water, none
208 of the analytes could be detected anymore. The differences in the extraction recoveries
209 between WWMPs and sample matrices are consistent with those reported by Martin *et al.*
210 [50].

211 **3.3 Analytical method validation**

212 In order to assess the performance of the proposed method, the main analytical quality
213 parameters were thoroughly evaluated by determination of recoveries, linearity,
214 precision, repeatability, matrix effects and detection limits. Matrix-matched calibration
215 curves prepared in every type of sample showed good linearity between 0 and 100 µg/L,
216 with a correlation coefficient (R^2) ≥ 0.9946 and ≥ 0.9653 for stream and CSO sediments
217 respectively (Table 2). These R^2 values were of the same order of magnitude than those
218 reported by Pérez-Carrera *et al.* [61].

219 Relative recoveries and precision data are also listed in Table 2 for stream and CSO
220 sediments. Satisfactory relative recoveries and good repeatability in spiked extract
221 samples illustrated the suitability of the internal standards. Relative recoveries ranged
222 from 75.5% to 156% in stream sediment extracts as well as in CSO sediment extract
223 samples for all analytes, indicating good performance of the proposed method. Our
224 proposed method achieved a significantly better recovery for acetaminophen in
225 comparison with methods developed by Martin *et al.* and Radjenovic *et al.* [50, 54] for its
226 determination in sample matrices which may have similar properties as CSO sediments.

227 The repeatability values varied in the range of 2.19–17.4% for stream sediments and
228 1.80–22.6% for CSO sediments and reproducibility was of 0.04–20.0% for stream
229 sediments and of 0.82–22.9% for CSO sediments. These results did not show apparent
230 differences between stream and CSO sediment samples and are similar to those reported
231 by other studies [50, 54, 62].

232 Table 2 also outlines limits of detection (LODs) for stream and CSO sediment extracts
233 that were in the range of 0.01–0.41 ng/g in stream sediment extracts and 0.21–14.8 ng/g
234 in CSO sediment extracts. The sensitivity for stream sediment samples was better than for
235 CSO sediment samples. The caffeine registered a higher LOD in comparison with the
236 other compounds. Thus, our method is less sensitive to analyse caffeine as compared to
237 the other analytes but given the very high concentrations of caffeine observed, this is a
238 non-issue. LODs for stream sediments were better than reported in previous studies using
239 LC [49, 61, 62].

240 **3.4 Matrix effects**

241 We successfully reduced matrix effects by using selective extraction and cleanup
242 procedures and using an APCI interface as the ionisation source instead of the more
243 standard ESI interface (see details in Supplementary material).

244 **3.5 Method applicability in sediment samples and comparison with water** 245 **samples**

246 After the optimization and validation, the developed method was applied to real samples
247 with different matrices, to evaluate its applicability in the determination of the

248 investigated WWMPs in stream and CSO sediments. To the best of our knowledge, this is
249 the first time that such compounds were measured in CSO sediments.

250 With the exception of medroxyprogesterone, almost all of the target compounds were
251 detected in sieved sediment samples (80 mesh) with concentrations ranging from 0.13 to
252 427 ng/g dw and the most abundant compound was theophylline/paraxanthine (Table 3).
253 Comparison among the concentrations of compounds in combined sewer overflow
254 sediments (CSO) and sediments from the river downstream of CSOs (US₃) show that the
255 majority of compounds are effectively removed by natural attenuation (e.g. dilution,
256 hydrolysis, sorption, biotransformation and phototransformation).

257 Table 4 presents mean concentrations of 4 compounds measured in surface water samples
258 during dry and wet weather conditions. Our results were compared with data, reported by
259 Madoux-Humery *et al.* [48] and Guérineau *et al.* [23], in order to compare the water and
260 sediment samples from sites having different degrees of human fecal contamination
261 relative to the available dilution (CSOs > US₂ = US₁ > canal > US₃).

262 Figure 2 shows the ratio between the average concentrations of WWMPs measured in
263 water and sediment samples for each of the sites and their limits of detection. This ratio
264 indicates the range over which a particular compound (ACE, THEO, CAF or CBZ) could
265 be useful as a wastewater tracer similar to the recommendation of Benotti and
266 Brownawell for comparing various WWMPs as tracers of wastewater contamination
267 using dynamic ranges of the WWMPs [2] see Table S5 (Supplementary material). In
268 contrast to the dynamic range of Benotti and Brownawell [2], the concentration:LOD

269 ratio (C:LOD) is defined here with average concentrations rather than the maximum
270 concentration measured in order to reduce the bias from extreme values that are not
271 representative of environmental conditions:

$$272 \quad C: LOD = \frac{\text{Average measured concentration in environmental sample}}{LOD} \quad (1)$$

273 For highly concentrated sampling locations such as sewers (SA and SB) in dry weather
274 and one of the CSOs in wet weather (OA, the overflow of sewer SA), the C:LOD was
275 greater (from 5 to 43 times higher for THEO and CAF, respectively) in water than in
276 sediments for all WWMPs. In general, as the degree of dilution increased, the C:LOD in
277 sediments increased relative to the C:LOD in water. For example, OB, the overflow from
278 combined sewer SB is highly diluted because it receives runoff from a large impermeable
279 surface [48]. For all WWMPs in OB except for CAF, the C:LOD of CSO sediments (C)
280 was greater than in water. For ACE, the C:LOD in sediments was always greater than in
281 water with the exception of the highly concentrated sewage samples (SA, SB, and OA).
282 In contrast, the C:LOD for CBZ in water was higher than in sediments with the exception
283 of site OB because of the higher LOD for CBZ in sediments. In CSO sediments, the
284 WWMP with the highest C:LOD was THEO followed by ACE. For urban stream and
285 canal sediments, ACE was the best tracer of fecal contamination followed by CAF and
286 THEO. For water, CAF appeared most frequently as the WWMP with the highest C:LOD
287 followed by ACE. However, ACE was below the detection limit in water samples from
288 the most highly diluted urban streams.

289 Benotti and Brownawell [2] have shown the potential of using some of the selected
290 compounds (acetaminophen, caffeine, paraxanthine and carbamazepine) as wastewater
291 tracers of a highly sewage-impacted estuary bay. By determining the dynamic range of
292 LC-ToF-MS analysis in waters, they found that caffeine and paraxanthine were some of
293 the compounds with the largest dynamic ranges. Unique to our study, was the analysis
294 and comparison of WWMPs concentrations in sediment samples with their
295 concentrations in water samples.

296 The dynamic range as defined by Benotti and Brownawell [2] or the C:LOD depend
297 strongly on the method used for measurements. The comparison of the dynamic ranges or
298 C:LOD of WWMPs in water versus sediments strongly supports the use of sediment
299 sampling in addition to water sampling for fecal source tracking. Because the C:LOD of
300 some WWMPs (specifically ACE in our study) in sediments can be higher than the
301 C:LOD in water, sediment sampling can be more useful for establishing gradients related
302 to contaminant sources, particularly for highly diluted water sources with wastewater
303 sources that are intermittent [23]. The disadvantages of sediment sampling include the
304 greater heterogeneity of the samples with regards to particle size, natural organic matter,
305 etc. that can influence WWMP sorption [21, 63-66] and the smaller volumes of samples
306 collected. Advantages of sediment sampling include the lower mobility of WWMPs in
307 sediments at specific locations, particularly in relation to wastewater discharges that are
308 intermittent such as CSOs, cross-connections or spills that are difficult to monitor in
309 water because of their highly dynamic nature. Many factors influence the concentrations
310 of WWMPs in water and sediments, including human consumption patterns and excretion

311 rates, discharge patterns, sorption processes, degradation rates and dilution processes [67-
312 69]. The relative importance of these factors for a given system, in addition to the LOD
313 of WWMPs will determine the most appropriate WWMP tracers to select and whether
314 they should be measured in both the aqueous and sediment phases. Results of this study
315 showed that even WWMPs considered to have a relatively low sorption potential, such as
316 ACE [70] can serve as useful tracers in sediments because they had a relatively high
317 C:LOD ratio. Dilution processes often dominate when travel times are short, discharges
318 are intermittent or highly variable, and flow rates are low compared to the receiving
319 water. In these cases, where the C:LOD is low, water sampling alone will not likely
320 provide meaningful results and sediment sampling should be considered.

321

322 4. Conclusions

323 A method using ultrasonication–assisted extraction and UHPLC–APCI–MS/MS detection
324 was successfully developed for the simultaneous analysis of 10 WWMPs from a diverse
325 group of markers of sanitary contamination, including pharmaceuticals, hormones and
326 personal care products. Our work helps to demonstrate the versatility of USE methods to
327 target a more diverse range of compounds. Optimisation of the ultrasonic extraction, SPE
328 and analytical parameters are required for more efficient and reproducible extractions,
329 purifications and analyses. Ultimately, the choice of the extraction, cleanup and analytical
330 methods was dependent on the effectiveness, capital cost, operating cost, simplicity of
331 operation, and waste production. The optimized ultrasonic extraction and cleanup
332 procedures were found to extract WWMPs at ng/g levels from stream and CSO sediments

333 with recoveries greater than 70% for most analytes. All selected compounds were eluted
334 within a 3.6 minute period; with a short chromatography run (4.5 min). It allows for
335 significant improvement over previously published works in terms of matrix effect for the
336 analysis of the target compounds in sediments (especially acetaminophen). The method
337 has been used in our laboratory to extract WWMPs from field-collected sediments from
338 rivers, creeks and combined sewer overflows. The range of WWMPs extracted and its
339 complete separation obtained by the optimized method was found to be very useful in the
340 application of fingerprinting and source determination of human fecal contaminated
341 samples. Chromatographic separation of theophylline and paraxanthine was necessary for
342 accurate quantitation of the theophylline used as a medication on one hand and of the
343 primary metabolite of caffeine on the other hand. This method has excellent extraction
344 efficiency, precision and recovery of WWMPs. In addition, when combined with easy
345 sample preparation, it makes it an ideal technique for laboratories engaged in analyzing a
346 large number of sediment samples. Based on the optimized conditions, the level of
347 selected WWMPs in the sediment samples ($\leq 80 \mu\text{m}$) collected in the Greater Montreal
348 area was found to be between 0.13 and 427 ng/g dw. Our results support the hypothesis
349 of Madoux-Humery *et al.* [48] who suggested that internal sewer sediments were the
350 source of WWMPs that were remobilized with the increase of flow rate associated with
351 rain events. Sediment sampling of WWMPs should accompany water sampling for fecal
352 source tracking for systems where dilution rates are high and the C:LOD is low. Thus
353 confirmation of concentrations in sediments is necessary to understand their

354 environmental fate and potential ecological effects, in addition to their use as tracers of
355 sewage contamination.

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361 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

362 Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at

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- 474

475 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

476 **Figure 1.** Absolute and relative extraction recoveries for selected WWMPs from spiked
477 stream sediment (top) and CSO sediment (bottom). Error bars represent standard
478 deviations (n=3).

479 **Figure 2.** Average concentration to LOD ratios of WWMPs in CSOs (C, SA, SB, OA and
480 OB), urban streams (US₁, US₂ and US₃) and canal sediment (S) and water (W) samples
481 under dry (DW) and wet (WW) weather conditions.

482 **Table 1.** Characteristics of the extraction method (USE) described in the literature for the determination of the target compounds in solid
 483 environmental samples.

| Sample | Compound | Extraction solvents | Total solvent volume (mL) | Ultrasonication cycles | pH extract | Clean-up | Analytical determination | Recoveries (%) | References |
|--|---|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------|
| Sewage sludge, river and estuary sediments | ATL CBZ MedP | Acetonitrile–water (5:3, v/v) | 24 | 3 x 15 min | 7 | Oasis HLB | UHPLC–MS/MS (+ESI, MRM) | 80–100% except for atenolol | [71] |
| Sea sediments | CBZ DIC | Acetone–McIlvaine buffer (1:1, v/v, pH 4) | 80 | 2 x 15 min | – | Evolute ABN and Oasis HLB | UHPLC–MS/MS (+ESI, -ESI, MRM) | 60–70% 50–60% | [39] |
| Sewage sludge, compost and sediments | ACE CBZ CAF DIC | Methanol Methanol Acetone | 9 | 3 x 15 min | 2 | Oasis HLB | HPLC, UV–DAD | 10–20% 80–100% 80–100% 60–80% | [50] |
| Primary and excess sludge | ACE DIC CBZ ATL THEO CAF DEET | Methanol–water (1:9, v/v, pH 11) | 25 | 1 x 15 min and 2 x 10 min | – | Oasis HLB | HPLC–MS/MS (API) | 80–120% except for atenolol (40%) | [72] |
| Activated and digested sludge | CBZ DIC | Methanol Acetone | 10 | 4 x 5 min | 7 2 | RP-C ₁₈ ec Oasis MCX | HPLC–MS/MS (+ESI, -APCI, MRM) | 76–85% | [73] |

484

485 **Table 2.** Recoveries in stream and CSO sediment extracts, repeatability, reproducibility, linearity
 486 (regression coefficient) and detection limit (LOD) for the method.

| Compound | Recovery (%, n=2) | Intra-day RSD (%, n=5) | Inter-day RSD (%, n=3) | R ² | LOD (ng/g) |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| ACE | 96.6 ^a | 2.29 ^a | 4.67 ^a | 0.9984 ^c | 0.01 ^c |
| | 101 ^b | 2.97 ^b | 6.99 ^b | | |
| | 96.9 ^c | 2.30 ^c | 0.72 ^c | | |
| | 107.6 ^d | 8.08 ^d | 6.43 ^d | | |
| ATL | 93.3 | 5.98 | 3.33 | 0.9972 | 0.17 |
| | 100 | 6.92 | 14.45 | | |
| | 88.7 | 2.67 | 0.04 | | |
| THEO | 112 | 10.51 | 5.30 | 0.9653 | 3.48 |
| | 103 | 3.32 | 4.05 | | |
| | 112 | 8.9 | 16.32 | | |
| CAF | 100 | 3.18 | 4.20 | 0.9992 | 3.15 |
| | 156 | 8.43 | 5.53 | | |
| | 124 | 10.00 | 2.84 | | |
| APM | 121 | 8.60 | 11.82 | 0.9975 | 0.41 |
| | 104 | 5.20 | 5.31 | | |
| | 118 | 6.87 | 6.13 | | |
| CBZ | 111 | 4.00 | 6.54 | 0.9995 | 14.79 |
| | 107 | 9.00 | 9.20 | | |
| | 99.0 | 15.00 | 3.57 | | |
| DEET | 99.8 | 1.80 | 6.94 | 0.9991 | 0.21 |
| | 105 | 11.94 | 7.38 | | |
| | 113 | 10.99 | 16.06 | | |
| DIC | 103 | 2.94 | 2.40 | 0.9972 | 0.32 |
| | 87.6 | 10.57 | 17.63 | | |
| | 113 | 3.38 | 3.43 | | |
| MedP | 114 | 6.68 | 14.39 | 0.9995 | 0.21 |
| | 98.8 | 2.19 | 10.02 | | |
| | 81.1 | 7.50 | 8.96 | | |
| PRO | 82.6 | 17.42 | 6.10 | 0.9991 | 0.90 |
| | 85.0 | 17.37 | 19.98 | | |
| | 75.5 | 9.11 | 2.59 | | |
| MedP | 104 | 5.96 | 18.68 | 0.9988 | 1.50 |
| | 106 | 6.77 | 7.49 | | |
| | 104 | 4.08 | 15.34 | | |
| PRO | 91.8 | 8.18 | 6.05 | 0.9946 | 0.13 |
| | 85.7 | 22.62 | 22.90 | | |
| | 109 | 15.8 | 10.24 | | |
| | 85.6 | 10.37 | 3.53 | | |
| PRO | 88.7 | 7.43 | 0.18 | 0.9998 | 0.23 |
| | 94.9 | 6.05 | 11.87 | | |
| | | | | | |

487 Where a, b and c represent respectively 10, 20 and 30 µg/L as nominal concentrations of analytes doped
 488 into stream sediment extract and d represents a concentration of 100 µg/L in CSO sediment extract. The
 489 linearity ranged from 0 to 30 µg/L in stream sediment extract (e) and between 0 and 100 µg/L in CSO
 490 sediment extract (f). This nomenclature is also applied to the other rows of the table.

491 **Table 3.** WWMP content of real sediment samples (CSO, urban streams and canal) under dry weather
 492 conditions, means are given with standard deviations.

| Compound | Mean concentration (ng/g) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|---|------|-----------------|---|------|-----------------|---|------|-----------------|---|--------------------|------|---|------|
| | CSO | | | US ₁ | | | US ₂ | | | US ₃ | | Canal ^b | | | |
| ACE | 97.69 | ± | 16.8 | 0.87 | ± | 0.03 | 2.45 | ± | 1.08 | 0.13 | ± | 0.05 | 8.23 | ± | 4.55 |
| ATL | 80.46 | ± | 9.26 | nd | | | Trace | | | nd | | Na | | | |
| THEO/PX | 426.63 | ± | 13.0 | 0.69 | ± | 0.05 | 0.44 | ± | 0.04 | Trace | | 1.35 ± 0.77 | | | |
| CAF | 297.04 | ± | 16.2 | 22.34 | ± | 0.72 | 1.59 | ± | 1.19 | 1.59 | ± | 0.55 | 1.31 | ± | 0.39 |
| APM | nd | | | nd | | | Trace | | | nd | | Na | | | |
| CBZ | 53.91 | ± | 6.78 | Trace | | | Trace | | | nd | | Nd | | | |
| DEET | 2.30 | ± | 1.17 | 0.68 | ± | 0.01 | 13.82 | ± | 10.6 | nd | | Na | | | |
| DIC | Trace | | | nd | | | nd | | | nd | | Na | | | |
| MedP | nd | | | nd | | | nd | | | nd | | Na | | | |
| PRO | 11.49 | ± | 1.05 | nd | | | nd | | | 0.59 | ± | 0.11 | Na | | |

493 na and nd represent not analysed and not detected respectively; trace refers to cases where an MS
 494 transition peak was observed, but it was below the LOD; ^b refers to results ($n = 15$) reported during the
 495 study of Guérineau *et al.* [23].

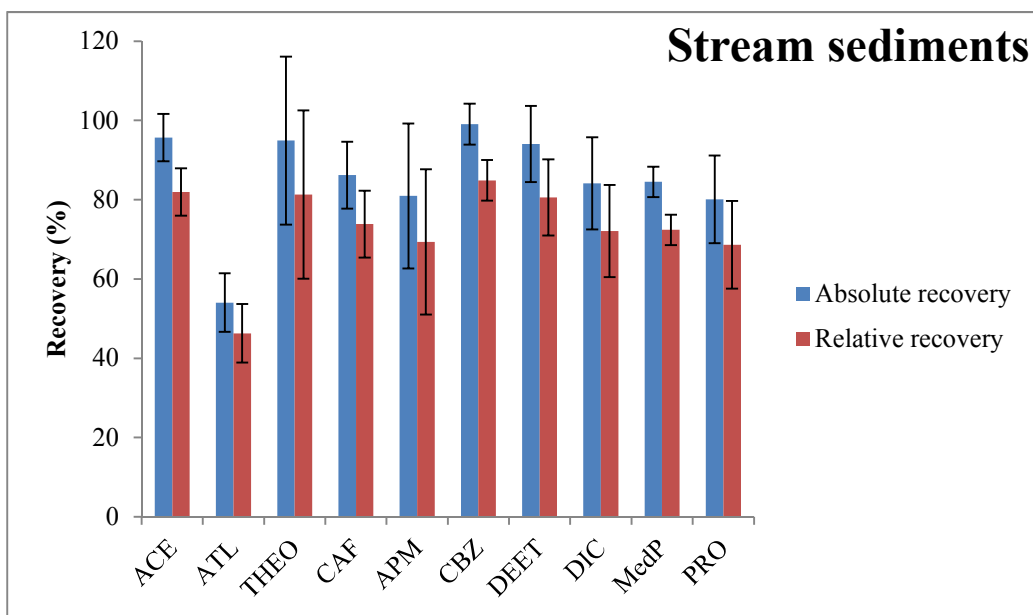
496 **Table 4.** WWMP content of water samples (CSOs, urban streams and canal) under dry and wet weather conditions, means are given with standard
 497 deviations.

| Compound | Mean concentration (ng/L) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | Dry weather (DW) | | | | | | | Wet weather (WW) | | | | | | | | | | |
| | SA ^a | | SB ^a | | US ₁ | | US ₂ | US ₃ | Canal ^b | OA ^a | | OB ^a | | US ₁ | | US ₂ | US ₃ | Canal ^b |
| ACE | 8460 ± 5270 | 3280 ± 1683 | 170 ± 126 | 508 ± 243 | nd | nd | 6420 ± 6808 | 1 ± 0 | 124 ± 20 | 72.6 ± 36.9 | nd | nd | | | | | | |
| THEO/PX | 4460 ± 1613 | 3200 ± 3049 | 80.7 ± 31.9 | 130 ± 58.4 | 22.6 ± 15.1 | 14.1 ± 3.38 | 3630 ± 3203 | 128 ± 190 | 53.6 ± 15.6 | nd | 20 ± 8.74 | 11.7 ± 4.48 | | | | | | |
| CAF | 7740 ± 5561 | 810 ± 504 | 92.2 ± 26.9 | 318 ± 51.1 | 21.3 ± 5.30 | 55.3 ± 24.0 | 5520 ± 4968 | 336 ± 190 | 165 ± 24.5 | 36.2 ± 5.35 | 26.6 ± 24.7 | 35.1 ± 5.53 | | | | | | |
| CBZ | 310 ± 239 | 101 ± 136 | 6.61 ± 1.29 | 0.97 ± 0.16 | 2.12 ± 0.65 | 1.65 ± 0.17 | 207 ± 204 | 8.79 ± 14 | 3.68 ± 2.56 | 1.32 ± 0.53 | 2.12 ± 0.62 | 1.83 ± 0.13 | | | | | | |

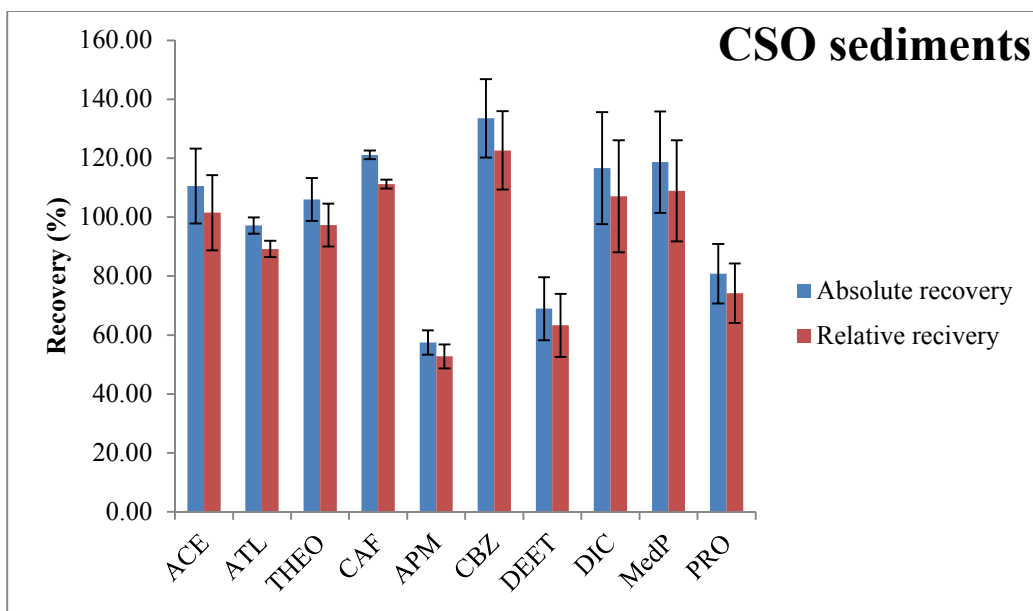
498 nd represents not detected; ^a and ^b refer to data and results reported by Madoux-Humery *et al.* [48] and Guérineau *et al.* [23] respectively.

499

1



2



3

4 **Figure 1**

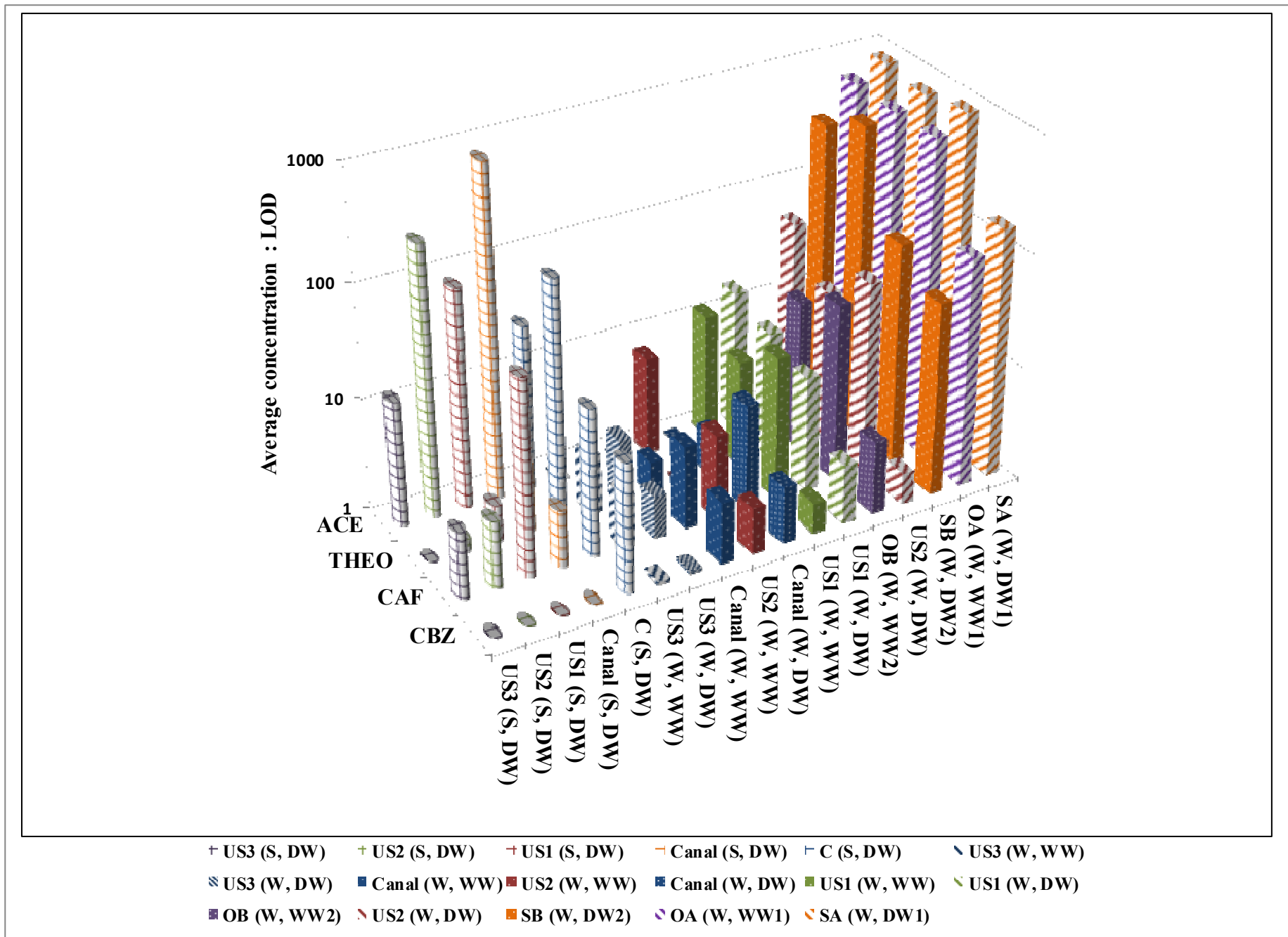


Figure 2