

1 **Industrial-era lead and mercury contamination in southern Greenland**
2 **implicates North American sources**

3
4 Marta Pérez-Rodríguez ^{1,2*}, Noemí Silva-Sánchez ¹, Malin E. Kylander ^{3,4}, Richard
5 Bindler ⁵, Tim M. Mighall ⁶, J. Edward Schofield ⁶, Kevin J. Edwards ^{6,7,8}, Antonio
6 Martínez Cortizas ¹

7
8
9 ¹ Departamento de Edafología e Química Agrícola, Facultade de Biología, Universidade
10 de Santiago de Compostela, Campus Sur, Santiago de Compostela 15782, Spain

11 ²Institut für Geoökologie, AG Umweltgeochemie, Technische Universität
12 Braunschweig, 38106 Braunschweig Germany

13 ³ Department of Geological Sciences, Stockholm University, SE-10691 Stockholm,
14 Sweden

15 ⁴The Bolin Centre for Climate Research, Stockholm University, SE-10691 Stockholm,
16 Sweden

17 ⁵ Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Umeå University, SE-901 87
18 Umeå, Sweden

19 ⁶ Department of Geography and Environment, School of Geosciences, University of
20 Aberdeen, Elphinstone Road, Aberdeen AB24 3UF, UK

21 ⁷ Department of Archaeology, School of Geosciences, University of Aberdeen,
22 Elphinstone Road, Aberdeen AB24 3UF, UK

23 ⁸ Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, Herschel Road, Cambridge CB3 9AL, UK

24
25 * Corresponding Author:

26 E-mail: m.perez-rodriguez@tu-bs.de

27 Current address: Institute of Geoecology - Division of Environmental Geochemistry, Langer
28 Kamp 19c R303B, 38106 Braunschweig Phone: (+) 49-(0)531-391-7242

35

36 **Abstract**

37 To study the long-range transport of atmospheric pollutants from lower latitude
38 industrial areas to the Arctic, we analysed a peat core spanning the last ~700 cal. yr
39 (~AD 1300-2000) from southern Greenland, an area sensitive to atmospheric pollution
40 from North American and Eurasian sources. A previous investigation conducted in the
41 same location recorded atmospheric lead (Pb) pollution after ~1845, with peak values
42 recorded in the 1970s, and concluded that a North American source was most likely. To
43 confirm the origin of the lead, we present new Pb isotope data from Sandhavn, together
44 with a high-resolution record for mercury (Hg) deposition. Results demonstrate that the
45 mercury accumulation rate has steadily increased since the beginning of the 19th
46 century, with maximum values of 9.3 $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ recorded ~1940. Lead isotopic ratios
47 show two mixing lines: one which represents inputs from local and regional geogenic
48 sources, and another that comprises regional geogenic and pollution sources.
49 Detrending the Pb isotopic ratio record (thereby extracting the effect of the geogenic
50 mixing) has enabled us to reconstruct a detailed chronology of metal pollution. The first
51 sustained decrease in Pb isotope signals is recorded as beginning ~1740-1780 with the
52 lowest values (indicating the highest pollution signature) dated to ~1960-1970. The
53 $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ ratio of excess Pb (measuring 1.222, and reflecting pollution-generated Pb),
54 when compared with the Pb isotopic composition of the Sandhavn peat record since the
55 19th century and the timing of Pb enrichments, clearly points to the dominance of
56 pollution sources from North America, although it did not prove possible to further
57 differentiate the emissions sources geographically.

58

59 **Key words:** Hg; Pb isotopes; peat, metal pollution; isotopic residuals; atmospheric
60 deposition

61

62

63 **1. INTRODUCTION**

64 The Arctic, including Greenland (Figure 1), has experienced significant human impacts
65 through the effects of long-range atmospheric transport of pollutants since ancient
66 times. The oldest evidence of atmospheric metal pollution in Greenland dates back to
67 the Carthaginian and Roman periods, and is attested to by an increase in lead (Pb)
68 concentrations between 680 BC and AD 193 measured in the Summit ice core (Hong et

69 al., 1994). This was accompanied by a change in the Pb isotopic composition that
70 suggested the source of pollution was from Spanish ores (Rosman et al., 1997).
71 Evidence of medieval lead pollution in Greenland, dating to the 15th century AD, has
72 been proposed using inverse modelling on data obtained from Lake Igaliku in southern
73 Greenland (Massa et al., 2015). Before that study was conducted, no significant changes
74 in the modern levels of atmospheric metal deposition had been identified prior to the
75 18th century AD in Greenland (Bindler et al., 2001b; Candelone et al., 1995; Michelutti
76 et al., 2009; Murozumi et al., 1969; Rosman et al., 1994; Silva-Sánchez et al., 2015).

77

78 Most investigations into long-range atmospheric pollution in Greenland consider the Pb
79 content and isotopic ratios in ice cores and lake sediments. By contrast, there are fewer
80 records available for the accumulation of other heavy metals such as mercury (Hg). An
81 increase in Hg content since the Industrial Revolution has been demonstrated in
82 Greenlandic marine and lake sediments, as well as ice cores (Asmund and Nielsen,
83 2000; Bindler et al., 2001a; Dommergue et al., 2016; Faïn et al., 2009; Lindeberg et al.,
84 2006), and the associated risks for Arctic wildlife and human populations have been
85 highlighted (AMAP, 2011). Very few of these investigations have produced Hg records
86 that extend into the pre-industrial era. Consequently our understanding of the long-term
87 accumulation of Hg in the Greenlandic environment remains relatively poor.

88

89 In addition to some contribution from local sources, a long-distance origin is accepted
90 for atmospheric pollutants recorded in Greenland (Skov et al., 2016). Whilst the
91 existence of a wide range of pollution origins existing simultaneously is likely (such as
92 North America, Europe and Asia), strong control on atmospheric pollutant transport is
93 exerted by seasonal Arctic and Subarctic air masses (Sturges and Barrie, 1989a). The
94 polar front is not zonally symmetrical and can extend as far south as ~40° N over
95 Eurasia in January, thus making northern Eurasia the major source region for air
96 pollution transport into the Arctic (Law and Stohl, 2007). As such, results from recent
97 snow and atmospheric aerosols collected from the Canadian High Arctic (Shotyk et al.,
98 2005a; Sturges and Barrie, 1989b) pointing to a Eurasian source of Pb are noteworthy.
99 It seems unusual, therefore, that the Pb pollution signal recorded at CF8 (Easter Baffin
100 Island) has a US origin (Michelutti et al., 2009).

101

102 The high elevation of the Greenland Ice Sheet and its location in the high Arctic leave it
103 more greatly exposed to atmospheric pollution from distant sources than the rest of the
104 Arctic (Stohl, 2006). Thus, in snow samples collected from the Summit Station in
105 central Greenland, the analysis of the Pb isotopic composition of layers dating to ~AD
106 1967-1989 indicated that the USA was a prevalent source of Pb aerosols during the
107 1970s, decreasing in relative importance into the late 1980s (Rosman et al., 1994,
108 1993). In the same study (Rosman et al., 1993), and in a subsequent investigation in
109 south Greenland (Rosman et al., 1998), seasonal changes in pollution sources were
110 identified: North American sources were predominant during winter and autumn, while
111 during spring and summer the sources were mainly located in the North Atlantic region,
112 northern and western Europe, and in the Arctic Basin.

113

114 In contrast to the ice cores, which come from high elevation locations and receive
115 pollutants transported in the high troposphere, geochemical studies of peat cores and
116 lake sediments have been undertaken at lower altitudes in near-coastal areas in
117 southwestern and southern Greenland (Bindler et al., 2001a, 2001b; Shotyk et al.,
118 2003). These depositional contexts do not show consistent enrichment through metal
119 pollution prior to the 18th century, and the identification of emissions sources for these
120 locations has also proved to be problematic. In lake sediments from Kangerlussuaq
121 (southwestern Greenland), the application of a simple isotopic mixing model suggested
122 that the Pb record had a mainly Western European origin (Bindler et al., 2001b),
123 whereas lake sediments from Pearyland (northern Greenland) demonstrate a Eurasian
124 source (Michelutti et al., 2009). A peat record from Tasiusaq (southern Greenland)
125 indicates a 20th century North American pollution source (Shotyk et al., 2003), although
126 the complex isotopic composition of the signal warranted a cautious interpretation.

127

128 More recently, a multiproxy study conducted at an ombrotrophic mire at Sandhavn,
129 southern Greenland, has provided firm evidence for Pb enrichment beginning ~AD
130 1845 (Silva-Sánchez et al., 2015). This record is important because the location of the
131 site – near the southern tip of Greenland – places it at the edge of the Arctic front. The
132 region also experiences a bimodal wind direction with a strong probability of observing
133 both westerly and easterly high speed aeolian events (Moore et al., 2008; Renfrew et al.,
134 2008). The chronology of Pb pollution, which was closer in timing to the events of the
135 North American Industrial Revolution (Kylander et al., 2004; Norton et al., 1997) than

136 to that within Europe, together with the presence of long-distance transported pollen
137 (Rousseau et al., 2003) and cryptotephra (Blockley et al., 2015), supports a hypothesis
138 that northeastern North America was the probable source of the Pb (Silva-Sánchez et
139 al., 2015). In this paper we extend the geochemical investigations of this site through
140 the measurement of stable Pb isotopes along with total Hg. Our aims are (i) to compare
141 the Pb record with that of another likely long-range atmospheric metal pollutant, *viz.*
142 Hg, and (ii) to use Pb isotope analysis to provide a more precise identification of the
143 source area(s) for atmospheric pollutants arriving in south Greenland.

144

145 **2. MATERIAL AND METHODS**

146

147 **2.1 Location and sampling**

148 Sandhavn (59°59.9'N, 44°46.6'W) is located on the coast of Greenland approximately
149 50 km northwest of Cape Farewell, the most southerly point on the island (Figure 1).
150 The climate is subarctic, with cold winters and cool summers (JJA mean ~6 °C),
151 moderate annual precipitation (~900 mm per annum), and frequent strong winds.
152 During the late medieval period (~AD 1000-1400) the site was inhabited by the Norse
153 and the Thule Inuit. Today it lies abandoned, 35 km to the northwest of the nearest
154 major settlement (the small town of Nanortalik; ~1,400 inhabitants). Open oceanic
155 heath overlying podzolic soils is characteristic of the local area. The regional geology
156 comprises gneisses and granites of the Ketilidian mobile belt with basic and
157 intermediate intrusions (Allaart, 1976), with granites and gabbros forming the local
158 lithologies (Figure 1). The site is described in further detail elsewhere (Golding et al.,
159 2014, 2011; Raahauge et al., 2002; Silva-Sánchez et al., 2015).

160

161 In August 2008, a peat monolith (40 cm) was recovered from a small (~30 m diameter)
162 basin (59° 59.875'N, 44 °46.637'W) adjacent to the former homefields and Norse ruins
163 at Sandhavn (Figure 1). The sediment column was collected in a monolith tin from the
164 open face of a pit dug into the mire. The field stratigraphy comprised a base of saturated
165 coarse grey-brown sands (40-36 cm) overlain by an orange-brown *turfa* (rootlet) peat
166 containing abundant bryophytes (36-5 cm). The top of the profile (5-0 cm) contained
167 the (living) root mat, which was not analyzed for geochemistry. The monolith was
168 wrapped in polythene and returned to the University of Aberdeen, where it was kept
169 refrigerated (4°C) prior to sub-sampling in the laboratory. In preparation for

170 geochemical analysis, the core was cut into 1 cm thick slices and samples were dried
171 and milled to a fine powder with an agate mill. Only the basal sands and the peat unit
172 (40-5 cm) were analyzed.

173

174 **2.2 Chronology**

175 An age-depth model for the peat monolith was developed by Silva-Sanchez *et al.* (2015)
176 (reproduced here as Figure 2) and we adopt the same chronology. What follows is a
177 brief summary. For detailed discussion of the development of the model, the reader is
178 referred to the earlier paper.

179

180 The model uses *Clam* software to fit a smoothed-spline through a series of calibrated
181 AMS ^{14}C and ^{210}Pb dates. The model applies to only the organic section of the profile
182 (0–36 cm), including the living root mat, with errors varying between ± 2 cal. yr
183 (smallest towards the surface) and ± 50 cal. yr (greatest towards the base). It indicates
184 that peat formation began ~AD 1270 and was continuous thereafter, with notably slow
185 accumulation rates ($0.020\text{--}0.025$ cm yr $^{-1}$) occurring during ~AD 1400–1800 – a period
186 encapsulating much of the Little Ice Age (LIA) – followed by accelerated peat growth
187 during warmer conditions in the 19th and particularly the 20th centuries. The calendar
188 dates cited in this paper for events at Sandhavn are ‘best’ estimates drawn from the
189 model, and all dates referred to in years AD.

190

191 **2.3 Sample preparation and analysis**

192 Samples were dried at room temperature (25 °C) until they reached a constant weight
193 and were then analysed for stable Pb isotopes and total Hg. The analyses were done on
194 the same samples as those measured during the previous work at the same site (Silva-
195 Sánchez *et al.*, 2015).

196

197 *2.3.1 Lead isotope analyses*

198 Peat samples were ashed at 450°C overnight to remove any organic matter. The
199 remaining residues were digested using an acid mixture of HNO $_3$ and HF contained
200 within closed digestion vessels in a MARS-Xpress microwave system (CEM, Mattheus,
201 USA). A ratio of 0.16 ml HF to 50 mg ash was determined to be the correct mixture
202 required to digest the samples (Kylander *et al.*, 2004). After digestion, samples were
203 dried and Pb was isolated by ion exchange chromatography (Weiss *et al.*, 2004).

204

205 Isotopic measurements were determined using an *IsoProbe* Multi Collector-Inductively
206 Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometer (MC-ICP-MS) (Micromass, Manchester, UK) at
207 the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Sweden. The instrument was equipped with a CETAC
208 desolvator and a T1H concentric nebuliser for introducing the sample. Seven
209 independently adjustable Faraday cups in static mode were used for isotope ratio
210 measurements. Averaged acid blank intensities were subtracted from raw intensities to
211 correct for Faraday cup offset and instrumental and solvent blanks. Corrections for Hg
212 interference on ^{204}Pb were typically $\leq 0.1\%$. Instrumental mass bias was corrected by
213 spiking samples with NIST-SRM 977 Tl to Pb/Tl ratio of 2:1 and using optimised Tl
214 ratios and the exponential law (see Weiss et al. [2004] for details).

215

216 Procedural blanks were $<1\%$ of the total Pb in the samples. The repeatability and
217 accuracy of Pb isotope measurements are based on multiple measurements ($n=23$) of
218 NIST-SRM 981 Pb acquired during the week long measurement session. Precision (2σ)
219 on individual Pb isotope ratios expressed relative to the mean (in ppm) is: 299 for
220 $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$, 388 for $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$, 543 for $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ and 230 for $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$. The
221 accuracy as evaluated against values published by Galer and Abouchami (1998) also
222 expressed relative to the mean are (in ppm): 50 for $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$, 462 for $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$, 210
223 for $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ and 509 for $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$.

224

225 2.3.2 Isotopic mixing model

226 For distinguishing between separate Pb sources, we use three isotopes plots (e.g.
227 $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{208}\text{Pb}$ vs. $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ or $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ vs. $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$). The basic equation of a binary
228 mixing model could be re-expressed to calculate the excess Pb isotope ratio with the
229 objective of inferring extra information of mixing. This value for a given sample is the
230 isotope ratio required for an additional source of Pb to cause an observed change in the
231 isotope signature of the sample relative to a background value or to some reference
232 value prior to a major shift in the isotope signature. We estimated the mean isotopic
233 composition of the excess $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ contribution for the Sandhavn samples (i.e.
234 pollution Pb) after Farmer et al. (1996):

235

$$\begin{aligned}
236 \quad & {}^{206}\text{Pb}/{}^{207}\text{Pb}_{\text{excess}} \\
237 \quad & = \frac{(\text{Pb}_{\text{sample}} \times {}^{206}\text{Pb}/{}^{207}\text{Pb}_{\text{sample}}) - (\text{Pb}_{\text{ref}} \times {}^{206}\text{Pb}/{}^{207}\text{Pb}_{\text{ref}})}{\text{Pb}_{\text{sample}} - \text{Pb}_{\text{ref}}}
\end{aligned}$$

238
239 where ${}^{206}\text{Pb}/{}^{207}\text{Pb}_{\text{sample}}$ refers to the isotope ratio and $\text{Pb}_{\text{sample}}$ refers to the total Pb
240 concentration of a given sample, and ${}^{206}\text{Pb}/{}^{207}\text{Pb}_{\text{ref}}$ and Pb_{ref} refer to the mean isotope
241 ratio and concentration, respectively, of peat background values.

242

243 2.3.2 Mercury analysis

244 The analyses for total Hg were done using a Milestone DMA-80 analyser. As a control,
245 measurements were replicated for one in every five samples, and a standard reference
246 material of the moss *Pleurozium schreberi* (Steinnes et al., 1997), M3, was run with
247 each set of samples. The quantification limit was 1.7 ng g^{-1} and mean recovery was 97
248 $\pm 1.2\%$. The mean difference between sample replicates was 3.4% (range $0.4\text{-}16.1\%$).

249

250

251 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

252

253 3.1 Lead and lead isotopes

254 Lead concentrations remain below $2.5 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ throughout most of the peat record (from
255 35 cm to the top) and progressively increase above 22 cm (Figure 3). Maximum Pb
256 concentrations ($16.4\text{-}19.6 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$) were reached between 10 -14 cm, with the overlying
257 sediments characterized by a progressive decrease in values. As Silva-Sánchez et al.,
258 (2015) noted, lead does not share any significant covariation with the lithogenic
259 elements (e.g. Ti, Zr) in the Sandhavn core. To remove contributions of geogenic Pb
260 from local dust (i.e. generated from erosion of local soils) from the peat record and
261 isolate the atmospheric Pb pollution signal, values were normalized against titanium (Ti,
262 as indicator of erosion), and Pb/Ti ratios were used as a proxy for atmospheric Pb
263 pollution. Although the patterns of Pb concentrations and Pb/Ti ratios are similar, some
264 minor differences were detected, mainly between ~ 1900 and 1940 , when some of the Pb
265 seems to be linked with increased soil erosion caused by the return of sheep farming to
266 the region in the early 20th century (Silva-Sánchez et al., 2015).

267

268 The depth profile of $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ (Figure 3) may be divided into three sections separated
269 by abrupt transitions. In the basal sand (40-36 cm) values are low (1.167 ± 0.074), with
270 a peak (1.298) at 37.5 cm. Above the sand-peat contact (36 cm) the ratio increases with
271 high values (1.307 ± 0.029) recorded between 33.5-21.5 cm. The ratio then decreases,
272 becoming near-constant (1.187 ± 0.009) in the upper 21 cm.

273

274 Three isotope plots were produced to examine changes in Pb sources and to assign
275 possible mixing end members (Figure 4). There are three end members that correspond
276 to the main sections identified in the isotopic record (as described above), and the data
277 suggest two mixing lines. The first of these – labeled as the geological mixing line, M-I
278 on Figure 4 – includes the basal sand (low radiogenic signature) and the peat samples
279 overlying this up to a depth of 22 cm (the most radiogenic values). The second
280 (pollution mixing) line – M-II on Figure 4 – involves the peat samples measured above
281 22 cm (also see section 3.4 for further details).

282

283 Because the basal samples have lower radiogenic signatures (bottom – left section of
284 three isotopes plot, Figure 4), –they overlap some of the samples considered to be
285 contaminated by pollutants, making it difficult to establish the departure from the
286 geological mixing to the pollution mixing line and thus fix accurately the start of
287 significant atmospheric Pb pollution in the Sandhavn peat record. To address the
288 problem we applied a mathematical approach based on the calculation of the Pb isotope
289 residuals between the trajectory of the unpolluted trend (geological mixing line, M-I)
290 and the observed values over the past two centuries (pollution mixing line, M-II). Thus,
291 we calculated the regression function of each of the two mixing lines (M-I and M-II)
292 thus estimating the statistical relationship among variables (i.e. isotopic ratios) for each
293 mixing line. The equation of M-I is expressed for $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ and $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{208}\text{Pb}$ as:

294

295 (1)

$$296 \quad \text{Expected}_{\frac{206}{208}\text{sample}} = m \times \text{Observed}^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}_{\text{sample}} + n$$

297 where m and n are the slope and the y-intercept (respectively) of the linear regression of
298 $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{208}\text{Pb}$ to $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ of unpolluted samples. Then, we determined the difference
299 between the observed isotopic values and the expected ones according to the geological
300 mixing line (M-I), i.e. the residuals.

301

302 (2)

303
$$Residual_{\frac{206}{207} vs \frac{206}{208}} = Observed^{206}Pb/^{208}Pb_{sample} - Expected_{\frac{206}{208}^{sample}}$$

304

305 The residuals close to zero (from basal sand samples pre-dating ~1740, Figure 5C)
306 confirm that the observed values are best placed on the geogenic mixing line. When
307 residuals increasingly depart from zero and move away from this mixing line they
308 indicate a greater influence from pollution sources (thereby reflecting samples post-
309 dating ~1740-1780). The beginning of atmospheric Pb pollution in Sandhavn varies
310 slightly according to which residuals are used. It is considered to be between 1740 and
311 1780 according to the residuals of Pb^{206}/Pb^{207} vs. Pb^{208}/Pb^{204} and Pb^{206}/Pb^{208} vs.
312 Pb^{206}/Pb^{207} , but later (~1800) according to the residuals of Pb^{207}/Pb^{204} vs. Pb^{208}/Pb^{204} .
313 These dates are more than 100 years apart when comparing the $^{206}Pb/^{204}Pb$ and
314 $^{206}Pb/^{207}Pb$ ratios (see decreases in isotope trend Figure 5B) although both are before the
315 rise of Pb/Ti (~1845). However, the main decrease in isotopic values, associated with
316 the increased in pollution signature is fixed – based on residuals and isotopic ratios
317 (Figure 5 B and C, respectively) – to just before 1900, and is also similar to the
318 increases in Pb/Ti ratios (Figure 5A).

319

320 **3.2 Mercury**

321 Mercury concentrations varied from 9 to 28 ng g⁻¹ in the basal sandy sediment (40–36
322 cm) and from 47 to 297 ng g⁻¹ in the peat (<36 cm). From 36 cm (the base of the peat) to
323 14.5 cm, concentrations rise (from 60 to 297 ng g⁻¹) with an abrupt increase from 20.5
324 cm, peaking at 14.5 cm (Figure 3); from 14.5 to 5.5 cm, values decrease with a slight
325 upturn at 7.5 cm (140 ng g⁻¹). Organically bound elements such as Hg can be enriched
326 by the effect of peat mineralization (Biester et al., 2003; Martínez Cortizas et al., 2007);
327 however, no significant correlation with peat decomposition proxies based on FTIR data
328 (Silva-Sánchez et al., 2015) have been found (Figure S1). Additionally, although peat
329 growth and carbon (C) accumulation rates appear to have been lower during the inferred
330 Spörer and Maunder solar minima (Silva-Sánchez et al., 2015), Hg concentrations were
331 not affected.

332

333 To account for the effects of changes in peat density and accumulation rate on
334 geochemical concentrations, and to enable direct comparison of figures with previous
335 studies, Hg accumulation rates are reported. Background accumulation rates for Hg
336 recorded in the Sandhavn core (Figure 5) occur from the start of peat accumulation
337 (~AD 1270, 35.5 cm) until ~1800 (23.5 cm), with values through this period lower than
338 $1.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ (depth values referred to Figure 3). These low values are similar to those
339 ($< 3.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$) reported for other pre-industrial peat and lake sediments records
340 (Bindler et al., 2001a, 2001b; Shotyk et al., 2003) from south and southwestern
341 Greenland. A gradual increase during the industrial period occurs from ~1800 to 1880
342 (23.5–20.5 cm) when Hg accumulation rates change significantly, reaching a maximum
343 ($9.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$) by ~1940 (16.5 cm) (Figure 5). Thereafter Hg accumulation rates
344 decline, corresponding to the general pattern for this element observed elsewhere in the
345 Northern Hemisphere (Bindler et al., 2001a; Martínez Cortizas et al., 2012; Norton et
346 al., 1997; Shotyk et al., 2003). The continuous decrease up until 1980 is a bit slower at
347 ~1960 (14.5 cm), with an accumulation rate of $6.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$. A secondary peak (3.8
348 $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$) is evident around 1987 (7.5 cm) and appears to coincide with the
349 enrichment in Hg measured in ice and snow samples from the high Arctic during the
350 late 1980s and 1990s (Zheng, 2015).

351

352 The maximum Hg accumulation rate in the Sandhavn core ($6\text{--}10 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$) is similar
353 to that recorded at Lakes 53 and 70 (Bindler et al., 2001a) located ~850 km north of
354 Kangerlussuaq Fjord. In contrast, the maximum Hg accumulation rate reported from the
355 only other Greenland peatland core study published to date (Shotyk et al., 2003) is 16–
356 17 times higher ($164 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$) than that at Sandhavn or the aforementioned lakes,
357 although these values have been considered unrealistic (Bindler, 2006). Similarly,
358 maxima from European and North American records that lie in closer proximity to
359 major emission sources are all higher, for example: Dumme Mosse mire in Sweden
360 ($\sim 25 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$) (Bindler, 2003); four ombrotrophic bogs from Scotland ($51\text{--}85 \mu\text{g m}^{-2}$
361 yr^{-1}) (Farmer et al., 2009); Chao de Lamoso bog in NW Spain ($27\text{--}60 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$)
362 (Martínez Cortizas et al., 2012); Arlberg bog (Minnesota, US; $38 \pm 11 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$)
363 (Benoit et al., 1994); and Caribou Bog (Maine, US; $32 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$) (Roos-Barraclough
364 et al., 2006).

365

366 The low Hg accumulation rates observed at Sandhavn may be explained in two ways.
367 Firstly, Sandhavn is located at great distance from any major sources of Hg pollution
368 emanating from North America and Europe. Secondly, rates of peat accumulation, and
369 the decomposition of organic matter at Sandhavn, were limited in the period ~AD 1400-
370 1800 (Silva-Sánchez et al., 2015) – encompassing much of the LIA – at least when
371 compared with peatlands from mid-latitudes. Consequently, the latter may have been
372 more affected by enrichment in Hg, most likely driven by intense peat mineralisation
373 (Martínez Cortizas et al., 2007). Both reasons point towards the suitability of Sandhavn,
374 and probably other similarly remote cold high latitude environments, as sensitive
375 archives for long-distance transported pollution given that the effect of peat post-
376 depositional processes (i.e. organic matter decomposition) is reduced in these locations.

377

378 **3.3 Chronology of Hg and Pb pollution in southernmost Greenland**

379

380 *3.3.1. Pre-pollution period to 1900*

381 Both the metals studied at Sandhavn show different patterns of change over time. Figure
382 5 shows the chronology for the Pb isotope ratio and residuals, Pb/Ti ratios (as
383 determined by Silva-Sánchez et al., 2015), and Hg accumulation rates. While Pb/Ti
384 ratios (Figure 5) were low and constant until ~1845, the start of Hg pollution in the
385 Sandhavn record began earlier (from ~1780) and precedes the former by ~65 years.
386 However, when the information provided by the lead isotopic residuals is considered
387 (section 3.1), the beginning of lead pollution may be fixed between 1740 and 1800. The
388 first major decrease in the isotope residuals occurs ~1740–1780 and continues until
389 ~1885; this is partly in accord with the main change in Pb isotope ratios recorded in the
390 Nunatak lake sediment record, southwestern Greenland (Bindler et al., 2001b), even
391 though the changes in the latter began earlier (~1700). The date for the onset of lead
392 pollution at Sandhavn according to the residuals is slightly earlier than that shown by
393 the increase in Hg and Pb/Ti but is consistent with other studies that suggest modern
394 metal pollution in Greenland had begun prior to the 19th century (Bindler et al., 2001a;
395 Massa et al., 2015). Although the decline in Pb isotope residuals seems to start at ~1700
396 (26.5 cm), the values are not systematically lower than the previous period until 1740-
397 1780.

398

399 Mercury and lead pollution records in Sandhavn during this period may be connected to
400 patterns in the burning of wood and coal in North America (Figure 6). The increase in
401 Hg accumulation rates at Sandhavn match estimates of the use of wood as an energy
402 source in USA (Figure 6), which show a progressive and continuous increase from the
403 end of the 18th. Similarly, it seems that the beginning of the use of coal in North
404 America, between 1850 and 1900, had a strong impact of Hg and Pb pollution records
405 in south Greenland. The first major rise in coal consumption in the USA (~1860)
406 coincides with a slight increase in Hg accumulation and with the first signs of Pb
407 atmospheric pollution as indicated by the rise in Pb/Ti ratios and the decline in the Pb
408 residual values (Figure 6). Thus, the progressive intensification in coal consumption in
409 the USA and Canada (the first estimations in Canada date back to 1880, Figure 6) runs
410 in parallel with the increase in metal accumulation in Sandhavn. However, due to the
411 long lifetime of gaseous elemental Hg in the atmosphere and its transport and deposition
412 on a global scale (Slemr et al., 1985), it is necessary to consider that other sources may
413 also contribute to the increase in Hg accumulation in southern Greenland. The
414 comparison of our Hg record with an atmospheric Hg global simulation (Figure 6)
415 shows a similar rise until 1900 which, accordingly to the models, was mainly caused by
416 gold mining (Horowitz et al., 2014; Streets et al., 2011).

417

418 *3.3.1. From 1900 to 1990*

419 Mercury and Pb increase significantly during the 19th century but reach their peak
420 values at different times (~1940–1950 and ~1980, respectively). In the case of Hg, this
421 is in agreement with other pollution records from Greenland (Boutron et al., 1998) and
422 North America (Beal et al., 2015; Roos-Barraclough et al., 2006). Even allowing for
423 differences in the type, location and resolution of the records, the peak in Hg pollution
424 at Sandhavn compares favorably with values measured in snow (Boutron et al., 1998)
425 and a recent model based on firn air data (Faïn et al., 2009) from Summit Station.
426 However, these maxima are slightly earlier than the peak in the worldwide and US
427 production of Hg (U.S Geological Survey, 2014), an indirect indicator of anthropogenic
428 Hg emissions to the atmosphere (Figure 6).

429 The slow reduction in Hg pollution during 1962–1968 at Sandhavn despite the temporal
430 decrease in coal burning in North America could be due to an increase in global Hg
431 consumption in commercial products like paint, batteries and in chlor-alkali plants
432 (Horowitz et al., 2014) (Figure 6). However, this does not rule out the Hg contribution

433 from coal burning after 1950 (Streets et al., 2011). Considering these, it is especially
434 noteworthy that the maximum Hg accumulation in Sandhavn corresponds to a rebound
435 in coal consumption in North America (both in the USA and in Canada). The
436 subsequent decline (after 1970) and peak around 1990 has been related to Hg
437 consumption by chlor-alkali plants (Horowitz et al., 2014).

438

439 A recent reconstruction (modelled) of atmospheric gaseous elemental mercury in the
440 Arctic shows a slightly different scenario; an increase since the 1950s peaking in the
441 late 1960s and early 1970s, and a return to low concentrations around 1995-2000
442 (Dommergue et al., 2016). The difference in our results compared to those generated by
443 Dommergue et al. (2016) (Figure 6) may be due to the core location for the latter being
444 ~2000 km further north than Sandhavn, and elevated (77°N and 2452 m asl), which
445 might result in different source areas for Hg.

446

447 The record of Pb pollution at Sandhavn, as shown by the Pb/Ti ratio and Pb isotopic
448 residuals, seem to be related with energy production in North America. A decrease in
449 the residuals starts ~1908, and this is simultaneous with the sharp increase in metal
450 pollution shown in the Sandhavn core and in other Greenland records (Bindler et al.,
451 2001a, 2001b). The increase in Pb from atmospheric deposition in Sandhavn seems to
452 reflect the increase of coal consumption as well as the beginning and progressive
453 increase in petroleum consumption, especially after 1940 following the introduction of
454 leaded gasoline. The lowest residual values (i.e. the highest Pb pollution signal
455 indicated by the isotopes) are dated to the 1940s and 1970s, and agree with data
456 obtained from analysis of the Summit ice cores (Faïn et al., 2009; Rosman et al., 1994).
457 The fall in gasoline Pb consumption in the USA since 1970, declining ~80% by the
458 early 1980s (Nichols, 1997), probably contributed to the pronounced increase in
459 isotopic residual values from ~1979 (Figure 6). A slight drop in Sandhavn isotopic
460 residuals in ~1988 indicates an increase in the pollution signal. Similar patterns are also
461 reported by the Pb isotopic composition in ice and snow samples from the high Arctic
462 (Shotyk et al., 2005b), where authors attribute the modern inputs of anthropogenic Pb to
463 other industrial sources. The absence of samples more modern than 1990 (the last
464 sample) in the Sandhavn core, prevents an examination of the most recent trends. The
465 close agreement between the isotopic residuals chronology and data from other archives

466 indicates that it is an appropriate and precise method to determine changes in the
467 chronology of the Pb isotopic signature.

468

469 **3.4 Sourcing**

470 Although the ratios involving the four stable Pb isotopes (^{204}Pb , ^{206}Pb , ^{207}Pb and ^{208}Pb)
471 were determined (Figure 3) and used to construct three-isotope plots (Figure 4), the
472 identification of potential sources is based on the $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ and $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{208}\text{Pb}$ ratios,
473 because these are the most commonly reported in Pb pollution studies. As such there are
474 more end members defined for comparison.

475 In Figure 7, the isotopic composition of the Sandhavn samples is compared with other
476 published isotopic data from Greenland (Andersen, 1997; Colville et al., 2011;
477 Kalsbeek and Taylor, 1985; Rosman et al., 1997; Shotyk et al., 2003; Taylor et al.,
478 1992; Whitehouse et al., 2005), North America (Bollhöfer and Rosman, 2001; Graney
479 et al., 1995) and Europe (Dunlap et al., 1999; Farmer et al., 2002; Shotyk et al., 2005;
480 Weiss et al., 1999). Samples from the sandy basal sediments of the Sandhavn core have
481 a fairly uniform isotopic composition ($^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ 1.118-1.143 and $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{208}\text{Pb}$ 0.479-
482 0.488; Figures 7 and 4) that is similar to that found in rocks from the Archaean craton in
483 southwest and southeast Greenland (Taylor et al., 1992; Whitehouse et al., 2005)
484 (Figure 7). There is one sample (37.5 cm, Figure 3) with an isotopic signature closer to
485 a second (potential) source (1.298 and 0.53, $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ and $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{208}\text{Pb}$ ratios
486 respectively). Pre-industrial peat samples (~AD 1300 to the late ~1800s; upper right in
487 Figure 7) have a more radiogenic composition ($^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ 1.312 ± 0.028 , $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{208}\text{Pb}$
488 0.536 ± 0.009) than most of the samples from the base of the core. They fall close to the
489 geogenic mixing line, between the Sandhavn basal sands (derived from the local
490 geological material) and rocks of the Ketilidian Mobile Belt of southern Greenland
491 (Andersen, 1997; Colville et al., 2011; Kalsbeek and Taylor, 1985) that could generate a
492 regional geological dust signal. Values assigned to geogenic Pb (peat residue – geogenic
493 lead; Figure 7) in a minerogenic peat record from Tasiusaq (southern Greenland)
494 (Shotyk et al., 2003), located 150 km northwest of Sandhavn, are also on the same
495 geogenic mixing line and support the interpretation of a regional southern Greenland Pb
496 source.

497

498 Peat samples dating to the Industrial period (from the end of the 1800s forwards) define
499 a second (pollution) mixing line that ranges from the regional geological signal to

500 values typical of pollution sources ($^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ 1.178 and $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{208}\text{Pb}$ 0.483, lower
501 radiogenic values). Data from the peat core from Tasiusaq (southern Greenland)
502 (Shotyk et al., 2003) show a similar transition between regional pre-industrial values
503 and the pollution signal (leachate – atmospheric Pb; Figure 7). At Sandhavn, the low
504 isotopic ratios are similar to the anthropogenic signal found in lake records from the
505 USA for the period 1972-1978 (Graney et al., 1995) (e.g. Lake Erie sediment –
506 anthropogenic signal; Figure 7) and show the same trend as that seen in Pb in
507 atmospheric data collected in Canada during the mid- to late 1990s from eastern
508 Canada, namely, Newfoundland, Labrador, and Chicoutimi, Quebec, respectively
509 (Bollhöfer and Rosman, 2001) (Air – Newfoundland and Chicoutimi, 1994-1999;
510 Figure 7).

511

512 There is a large difference in the isotopic signature between Pb ores used in the USA
513 and Canada. Coal in the USA used for industrial purposes from 1900 to 1920 was
514 extracted from deposits in West Virginia and Pennsylvania and displays $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$
515 values in the range 1.18-1.21(Graney et al., 1995). In the 1960s, the highly radiogenic
516 Missouri ores with a $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ ratio of ~1.28-1.32 dominated industrial use (Shirahata
517 et al., 1980) and the Pb used in gasoline in the USA was taken from the similarly
518 radiogenic Mississippi Valley type ores ($^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$, >1.22) (Wu and Boyle, 1997). In
519 contrast, the most important Pb ores used by industry in eastern Canada (Quebec,
520 Ontario and New Brunswick) are less radiogenic, with $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ ratios of 1.15-1.16
521 (Blais, 1996). The $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ signature of gasoline in eastern Canada was 1.16 during
522 the 1980s. Less radiogenic Pb has been found in British Columbia ores in western
523 Canada ($^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ 1.05) (Sturges and Barrie, 1987). Nonetheless, lake sediments from
524 northeastern Canada showed that US contributions to the total Pb burden in surficial
525 lake sediments are often in excess of 50%, with an increasingly Canadian Pb industrial
526 isotopic signal further north (Blais, 1996). At Sandhavn, the Industrial era peat samples
527 (Figure 7) are similar to the anthropogenic signal extracted from Lake Erie in sediments
528 dating from 1940 to 1989 and the pollution mixing trend shown by air samples collected
529 in eastern Canada (Lake Erie sediment and Newfoundland & Chicoutimi, respectively,
530 inset Figure 4).

531

532 Based upon the results obtained from previous research that suggested Europe to be the
533 main emissions source for atmospheric lead transported to western Greenland (Bindler

534 et al., 2001b), we have collated lead isotopic data from European records (peat and
535 moss samples) covering the last 300 years as well as modern air data (Figure 7) in order
536 to compare this with our own results. The resulting mixing line shows a different
537 trajectory to those previously discussed for Sandhavn (Figure 4) due to the different
538 lead sources. The isotopic composition of Pb mined and used in western Europe from
539 ancient times $1.16 - 1.21 \text{ Pb}^{206}/\text{Pb}^{207}$ (see Rosman et al., [1997]) and references therein)
540 – with similar values for coal – dominate the mixing until the early 20th century.
541 Thereafter the more radiogenic signature ($1.04 \text{ Pb}^{206}/\text{Pb}^{207}$) of British Columbia-type
542 ores enters into the European pollution mixing as the alkyls-Pb additive for gasoline,
543 leading to the lowering of the Pb isotope pollution signature in contrast to ratios for the
544 USA (Figure 7)

545

546 Taken together, these data indicate that metal pollution at Sandhavn was mainly
547 influenced by sources from the North America, given that the Pb isotopic signatures
548 also differ from those of Europe (see European mixing line, Figure 7). However
549 separating between emissions sources in the USA and Canada is not possible, mainly
550 due to the complexity of regional and local mixing along with the variability of sources
551 to be considered and their relative change over time (i.e. coal and petroleum from
552 different ores).

553

554 As mentioned, we estimated the mean isotopic composition of the excess $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$
555 contribution for the Sandhavn samples (Farmer et al., 1996). As background values
556 ($1.321 \text{ }^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ ratio, $0.96 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ Pb concentration) we used those in Pre-industrial
557 peat samples (~1500 to 1650), and calculated excess Pb values for samples dating to the
558 period after ~1800 (Industrial era). The average isotopic value of the excess Pb was
559 $1.193 (\pm 0.074)$ that is well above the numerical levels determined for lakes in
560 southwestern Greenland (1.145) (Bindler et al., 2001b) and aerosols from the high
561 Canadian Arctic (~1.160) (France and Blais, 1998), but closer to the upper limit of
562 European signals (~1.14 – 1.20, reported in [Bindler et al., 2001b]) and the lower limit
563 of the isotope field for pollution sourced in the US (1.19 – 1.25) (Rosman et al., 1994;
564 Shirahata et al., 1980; Sturges et al., 1993). Taking into account that the isotopes
565 residuals' chronology suggests that Pb pollution started ~1740–1780, the recalculated
566 excess $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ contribution including these samples (1.222 ± 0.114) may point to a

567 significant influence of Pb pollution from the USA in southernmost Greenland,
568 although the results are not conclusive.

569

570 We do not have direct evidence for the origin of Hg, but according to the Pb isotope
571 results we would expect the main source for Hg contamination to be also from the USA.
572 However, Hg has a complex behaviour in the environment. Its relatively long residence
573 time in the atmosphere (1 year) favours long-range transport and homogenization at a
574 hemispheric scale, making it more difficult to determine its precise origin. More than a
575 decade of research demonstrates that Hg isotopes could be used to trace sources, as well
576 as biogeochemical cycling and reactions involving Hg (Blum et al., 2014). The
577 combined analyses of Pb and Hg (both concentration and isotopic composition) may
578 provide the means to assist further in the identification of such pollution sources in
579 northern latitudes.

580

581

582 **Acknowledgments**

583 We would like to thank Jesús R. Aboal (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela) and
584 Kjell Billström (Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet) for access to the laboratory facilities;
585 Antonio Rodríguez López helped with laboratory work. This research was done under
586 the framework of the projects CGL2010-20672 (Plan Nacional I+D+i, Spanish
587 Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad), R2014/001 and GPC2014-009 (Dirección
588 Xeral I+D, Xunta de Galicia). The authors gratefully acknowledge the financial support
589 of the UK Leverhulme Trust *Footprints on the Edge of Thule* programme award for
590 core collection and associated environmental research.

591

592 **Figure captions**

593

594 **Figure 1.** (A) The location of Sandhavn (black star) and other places mentioned in the
595 text. Key to labels: A Summit ice cores (Rosman et al., 1997, 1994, 1993); B rock
596 samples from Kangerdlugssuaq (Taylor et al., 1992); C peat record in Tasiusaq,
597 Greenland (Massa et al., 2015; Shotyk et al., 2003); D Akilia rocks, Greenland
598 (Whitehouse et al., 2005); E lake sediments, Lake 53 and Lake 16, SW Greenland
599 (Bindler et al., 2001a, 2001b); F peat record from the Faroe Islands (Shotyk et al.,
600 2005); G *Sphagnum* moss samples from Scotland (Farmer et al., 2002); H peat record

601 from Denmark (Shotyk et al., 2003); I peat core from Schöpfenwaldmoor, Switzerland
602 (Weiss et al., 1999); J & K lake sediments from Lake Ontario and Lake Erie (Graney et
603 al., 1995); L & N aerosols samples from Chicoutimi and Newfoundland, Canada
604 (Bollhöfer and Rosman, 2001); M peat record from Caribou bog, US (Roos-
605 Barraclough et al., 2006); O peat records, Norway (Dunlap et al., 1999); P lake
606 sediments, Lake CF8 Baffin Island (Michelutti et al., 2009); Q snow samples from
607 Devon Island (Shotyk et al., 2005b); R peat records from NW Spain (Martínez Cortizas
608 et al., 2012); S rock samples from south Greenland (Andersen, 1997; Colville et al.,
609 2011; Kalsbeek and Taylor, 1985); T peat record from southern Sweden (Bindler,
610 2003). (B) Location of the study area (boxed) within Greenland. (C) Simplified
611 geological map of the area around Sandhavn (data from GEUS, 2017).

612

613 **Figure 2.** Age-depth model for the monolith, taken from (Silva-Sánchez et al., 2015).

614

615 **Figure 3.** Hg and Pb concentrations and accumulation rates through the Sandhavn
616 monolith and lead isotopic ratio Pb^{206}/Pb^{207} .

617

618 **Figure 4.** Lead (Pb) isotope scatterplots of the Sandhavn samples.

619

620 **Figure 5.** Main variables used in this study through the peat at Sandhavn (~AD 1300-
621 2000). (A) Hg accumulation rates (green line), Pb/Ti (blue line) (Silva-Sánchez et al.,
622 2015); (B) Pb isotopes ratios and, (C) an Pb isotope residuals Pb^{206}/Pb^{208} vs. Pb^{206}/Pb^{207}
623 (continuous line); Pb^{206}/Pb^{204} vs. Pb^{208}/Pb^{204} (dotted line) and Pb^{207}/Pb^{204} vs. Pb^{208}/Pb^{204}
624 (dashed line). Grey line indicates zero Pb isotopic residuals (i.e. the values are the
625 expected for the geogenic mixing line, see the text).

626

627 **Figure 6.** Detailed record showing the period after ~1790 for the Sandhavn variables
628 discussed in the text. Data of US. energy consumption attributed to sources in the USA
629 (in Quadrillion Btu) (US Energy Information Administration, 2012) is indicated using
630 different scales for wood, coal and petroleum respectively. Canadian energy
631 consumption (Quirin, 2014) is expressed in thousands of barrels (petroleum) and in
632 thousands of tons (coal). Pb isotope residuals correspond to Pb^{206}/Pb^{208} vs Pb^{206}/Pb^{207}
633 values and the red line indicates residuals equal to zero. Mercury world production and
634 Hg apparent consumption (data from the U.S. Geological Survey, 2014) are expressed

635 in tons (t) with different scales. Data for global simulated atmospheric Hg was extracted
636 from Horowitz et al., (2014) and Arctic simulated GEM (gaseous elemental Hg) from
637 Dommergue et al., (2016).

638

639 **Figure 7.** Scatterplots comparing the lead isotopic composition of the samples from
640 Sandhavn against data from Greenland, North America and West Europe. The type of
641 sample and the sampling location is indicated in the legend. (CN: Canada; DE:
642 Denmark; FA: Faroe Island; GL: Greenland; NO: Norway; SW: Sweden; SW:
643 Switzerland; UK: United Kingdom; US: United States). Lettering (A-S) corresponds
644 with the locations marked on Figure 1. References: A (Rosman et al., 1997); B (Taylor
645 et al., 1992); C (Shotyk et al., 2003); D (Whitehouse et al., 2005); G (Farmer et al.,
646 2002); I (Weiss et al., 1999); J & K (Graney et al., 1995); L & N (Bollhöfer and
647 Rosman, 2001); M (Shotyk et al., 2005); O (Dunlap et al., 1999); S (Andersen, 1997;
648 Colville et al., 2011; Kalsbeek and Taylor, 1985)).

649

650 **Supporting Information**

651 **Figure S1.** Scatterplot of Hg concentrations against proxies of peat decomposition
652 measured by Silva-Sánchez et al., (2015) (PC1o, left panel; PC3o, right panel) in the
653 Sandhavn record. The p-values of Pearson's test are 0.09 and 0.88 respectively.

654

655 **Table S1.** Mean (Avg), standard deviation (Sd), maximum (Max) and minimum (Min)
656 values for mercury, lead and lead isotope ratios through the Sandhavn monolith.

657

658 **References**

659 Allaart, J.H., 1976. Ketilidian mobile belt in South Greenland, in: Escher, A., Stuart-
660 Watt, W. (Eds.), *Geology of Greenland*. Geological Survey of Greenland
661 Copenhagen, pp. 120–151.

662 AMAP, A., 2011. *Assessment 2011: mercury in the Arctic*, Arctic Monitoring and
663 Assessment Programme (AMAP). Oslo, Norway.

664 doi:10.1017/CBO9781107415324.004

665 Andersen, T., 1997. Age and petrogenesis of the Qassiarsuk carbonatite-alkaline silicate
666 volcanic complex in the Gardar tift, South Greenland. *Mineral. Mag.* 61, 499–513.

667 doi:10.1180/minmag.1997.061.407.03

668 Asmund, G., Nielsen, S., 2000. Mercury in dated Greenland marine sediments. *Sci.*

669 Total Environ. 245, 61–72. doi:10.1016/S0048-9697(99)00433-7

670 Beal, S., Osterberg, E.C., Zdanowicz, C., Fisher, D., 2015. An ice core perspective on
671 mercury pollution during the past 600 years. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 49, 7641–
672 7647. doi:10.1021/acs.est.5b01033

673 Benoit, J.M., Fitzgerald, W.F., Damman, A.W.H., 1994. Historical atmospheric
674 mercury deposition in the mid-continental US as recorded in an ombrotrophic peat
675 bog. *Mercur. Pollut. Integr. Synth.* 187–202.

676 Biester, H., Martinez-Cortizas, a., Birkenstock, S., Kilian, R., 2003. Effect of Peat
677 Decomposition and Mass Loss on Historic Mercury Records in Peat Bogs from
678 Patagonia. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 37, 32–39. doi:10.1021/es025657u

679 Bindler, R., 2006. Mired in the past — looking to the future: Geochemistry of peat and
680 the analysis of past environmental changes. *Glob. Planet. Change* 53, 209–221.
681 doi:10.1016/j.gloplacha.2006.03.004

682 Bindler, R., 2003. Estimating the natural background atmospheric deposition rate of
683 mercury utilizing ombrotrophic bogs in Southern Sweden. *Environ. Sci. Technol.*
684 37, 40–46. doi:10.1021/es020065x

685 Bindler, R., Renberg, I., Appleby, P.G., Anderson, N.J., Rose, N.L., 2001a. Mercury
686 Accumulation Rates and Spatial Patterns in Lake Sediments from West Greenland:
687 A Coast to Ice Margin Transect. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 35, 1736–1741.
688 doi:10.1021/es0002868

689 Bindler, R., Renberg, I., John Anderson, N., Appleby, P.G., Emteryd, O., Boyle, J.,
690 2001b. Pb isotope ratios of lake sediments in West Greenland: inferences on
691 pollution sources. *Atmos. Environ.* 35, 4675–4685. doi:10.1016/S1352-
692 2310(01)00115-7

693 Blais, J.M., 1996. Using Isotopic Tracers in Lake Sediments To Assess Atmospheric
694 Transport of Lead in Eastern Canada. *Water. Air. Soil Pollut.* 92, 329–342.

695 Blockley, S.P.E., Edwards, K.J., Schofield, J.E., Pyne-O'Donnell, S.D.F., Jensen,
696 B.J.L., Matthews, I.P., Cook, G.T., Wallace, K.L., Froese, D., 2015. First evidence
697 of cryptotephra in palaeoenvironmental records associated with Norse occupation
698 sites in Greenland. *Quat. Geochronol.* 27, 145–157.
699 doi:10.1016/j.quageo.2015.02.023

700 Blum, J.D., Sherman, L.S., Johnson, M.W., 2014. Mercury Isotopes in Earth and
701 Environmental Sciences. *Annu. Rev. Earth Planet. Sci.* 42, 249–269.
702 doi:10.1146/annurev-earth-050212-124107

703 Bollhöfer, A., Rosman, K.J.R., 2001. Isotopic source signatures for atmospheric lead:
704 The Northern Hemisphere. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 65, 1727–1740.
705 doi:10.1016/S0016-7037(00)00630-X

706 Boutron, C.F., Vandal, G.M., Fitzgerald, W.F., Ferrari, P., 1998. A forty year record of
707 mercury in central Greenland snow in snow deposited Greenland reported from
708 previous studies of Greenland snow by major Combined probably plagued by
709 major contamination problems during estimated contributions from natural Hg
710 sources. *Geophysical Res. Lett.* 25, 3315–3318.

711 Candelone, J.-P., Hong, S., Pellone, C., Boutron, C.F., 1995. Post-Industrial Revolution
712 changes in large-scale atmospheric pollution of the northern hemisphere by heavy
713 metals as documented in central Greenland snow and ice. *J. Geophys. Res.* 100,
714 16605. doi:10.1029/95JD00989

715 Colville, E.J., Carlson, A.E., Beard, B.L., Hatfield, R.G., Stoner, J.S., Reyes, A. V,
716 Ullman, D.J., 2011. Sr-Nd-Pb isotope evidence for ice-sheet presence on southern
717 Greenland during the Last Interglacial. *Science* (80-.). 333, 620–623.
718 doi:10.1126/science.1204673

719 Dommergue, A., Martinerie, P., Courteaud, J., Witrant, E., Etheridge, D., 2016. A new
720 reconstruction of atmospheric gaseous elemental mercury trend over the last 60
721 years from Greenland firn records. *Atmos. Environ.* 136, 156–164.
722 doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2016.04.012

723 Dunlap, C.E., Steinnnes, E., Flegal, A.R., 1999. A synthesis of lead isotopes in two
724 millennia of European air. *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.* 167, 81–88. doi:10.1016/S0012-
725 821X(99)00020-5

726 Faïn, X., Ferrari, C.P., Dommergue, A., Albert, M.R., Battle, M., Severinghaus, J.,
727 Arnaud, L., Barnola, J.-M., Cairns, W., Barbante, C., Boutron, C., 2009. Polar firn
728 air reveals large-scale impact of anthropogenic mercury emissions during the
729 1970s. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 106, 16114–16119.
730 doi:10.1073/pnas.0905117106

731 Farmer, J.G., Anderson, P., Cloy, J.M., Graham, M.C., MacKenzie, A.B., Cook, G.T.,
732 2009. Historical accumulation rates of mercury in four Scottish ombrotrophic peat
733 bogs over the past 2000 years. *Sci. Total Environ.* 407, 5578–5588.
734 doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2009.06.014

735 Farmer, J.G., Eades, L.J., Atkins, H., Chamberlain, D.F., 2002. Historical trends in the
736 lead isotopic composition of archival Sphagnum mosses from Scotland (1838-

737 2000). *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 36, 152–157. doi:10.1021/es010156e

738 Farmer, J.G., Eades, L.J., Mackenzie, A.B., Kirika, A., Bailey-Watts, T.E., 1996. Stable
739 Lead Isotope Record of Lead Pollution in Loch Lomond Sediments since 1630
740 A.D. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 30, 3080–3083. doi:10.1021/es960162o

741 France, R.L., Blais, J.M., 1998. Lead concentrations and stable isotopic evidence for
742 transpolar contamination of plants in the Canadian High Arctic. *Ambio* 27, 506–
743 508.

744 Galer, S.J.G., Abouchami, W., 1998. Practical application of lead triple spiking for
745 correction of instrumental mass discrimination. *Miner. Mag. A* 62, 491–492.

746 Golding, K.A., Simpson, I.A., Schofield, J.E., Edwards, K.J., 2011. Norse–Inuit
747 interaction and landscape change in southern Greenland? A geochronological,
748 Pedological, and Palynological investigation. *Geoarchaeology* 26, 315–345.
749 doi:10.1002/gea.20351

750 Golding, K.A., Simpson, I.A., Wilson, C.A., Lowe, E.C., Schofield, J.E., Edwards, K.J.,
751 2014. Europeanization of Sub-Arctic Environments: Perspectives from Norse
752 Greenland’s Outer Fjords. *Hum. Ecol.* 43, 61–77. doi:10.1007/s10745-014-9708-y

753 Graney, J.R., Halliday, A., N., Keeler, G.J., Nriagu, J.O., Robbins, J.A., Norton, S.A.,
754 1995. Isotopic record of lead pollution in lake sediments from the northeastern
755 United States. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 59, 1715–1728. doi:10.1016/0016-
756 7037(95)00077-D

757 Hong, S., Candelone, J.-P., Patterson, C.C., Boutron, C.F., 1994. Greenland ice
758 evidence of hemispheric lead pollution two millennia ago by Greek and Roman
759 civilizations. *Science* (80-.). 265, 1841–1843.

760 Horowitz, H.M., Jacob, D.J., Amos, H.M., Streets, D.G., Sunderland, E.M., 2014.
761 Historical mercury releases from commercial products: Global environmental
762 implications. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 48, 10242–10250. doi:10.1021/es501337j

763 Kalsbeek, F., Taylor, P.N., 1985. Isotopic and chemical variation in granites across a
764 Proterozoic continental margin—the Ketilidian mobile belt of South Greenland.
765 *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.* 73, 65–80. doi:10.1016/0012-821X(85)90035-4

766 Kylander, M.E., Weiss, D.J., Jeffries, T., Coles, B.J., 2004. Sample preparation
767 procedures for accurate and precise isotope analysis of Pb in peat by multiple
768 collector (MC)-ICP-MS. *J. Anal. At. Spectrom.* 19, 1275–1277.

769 Law, K.S., Stohl, A., 2007. Arctic Air Pollution: Origins and Impacts. *Science* (80-.).
770 315, 1537–1540. doi:10.1126/science.1137695

771 Lindeberg, C., Bindler, R., Renberg, I., Emteryd, O., Karlsson, E., Anderson, N.J.,
772 2006. Natural Fluctuations of Mercury and Lead in Greenland Lake Sediments.
773 *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 40, 90–95. doi:10.1021/es051223y

774 Martínez Cortizas, A., Biester, H., Mighall, T., Bindler, R., 2007. Climate-driven
775 enrichment of pollutants in peatlands. *Biogeosciences* 4, 905–911. doi:10.5194/bg-
776 4-905-2007

777 Martínez Cortizas, A., Peiteado Varela, E., Bindler, R., Biester, H., Cheburkin, A.,
778 2012. Reconstructing historical Pb and Hg pollution in NW Spain using multiple
779 cores from the Chao de Lamoso bog (Xistral Mountains). *Geochim. Cosmochim.*
780 *Acta* 82, 68–78. doi:10.1016/j.gca.2010.12.025

781 Massa, C., Monna, F., Bichet, V., Gauthier, É., Losno, R., Richard, H., 2015. Inverse
782 modeling of past lead atmospheric deposition in South Greenland. *Atmos. Environ.*
783 105, 121–129. doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2015.01.025

784 Michelutti, N., Simonetti, A., Briner, J.P., Funder, S., Creaser, R.A., Wolfe, A.P., 2009.
785 Temporal trends of pollution Pb and other metals in east-central Baffin Island
786 inferred from lake sediment geochemistry. *Sci. Total Environ.* 407, 5653–62.
787 doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2009.07.004

788 Moore, G.W.K., Pickart, R.S., Renfrew, I.A., 2008. Buoy observations from the
789 windiest location in the world ocean, Cape Farewell, Greenland. *Geophys. Res.*
790 *Lett.* 35, 3–7. doi:10.1029/2008GL034845

791 Murozumi, M., Chow, T.J., Patterson, C., 1969. Chemical concentrations of pollutant
792 lead aerosols, terrestrial dusts and sea salts in Greenland and Antarctic snow strata.
793 *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 33, 1247–1294. doi:10.1016/0016-7037(69)90045-3

794 Nichols, A.L., 1997. Lead in Gasoline, in: Morgenstern, R.D. (Ed.), *Economic Analyses*
795 *at EPA: Assessing Regulatory Impact*. Resources for the Future, Washington DC,
796 pp. 49–86.

797 Norton, S.A., Evans, G.C., Kahl, J.S., 1997. Comparison of Hg and Pb fluxes to
798 hummocks and hollows of ombrotrophic Big Heath Bog and to nearby Sargent Mt.
799 Pond, Maine, USA. *Water, Air, Soil Pollut.* 100, 271–286.
800 doi:10.1023/a:1018380610893

801 Quirin, G.D., 2014. Statistics Canada. Section Q : Energy and Electric Power.

802 Raahauge, K., Appelt, M., Gulløv, H.C., Kapel, H., Krause, C., Møller, N.A., 2002.
803 *Tidlig Thulekultur i Stydgrønland (Early Thule culture in South Greenland)*. Rapp.
804 *om undersøgelserne i Nanortalik Kommune, sommeren 2001.*

805 Renfrew, I.A., Moore, G.W.K., Kristjánsson, J.E., Ólafsson, H., Gray, S.L., Petersen,
806 G.N., Bovis, K., Brown, P.R.A., Føre, I., Haine, T., Hay, C., Irvine, E.A.,
807 Lawrence, A., Ohigashi, T., Outten, S., Pickart, R.S., Shapiro, M., Sproson, D.,
808 Swinbank, R., Woolley, A., Zhang, S., 2008. The Greenland flow distortion
809 experiment. *Bull. Am. Meteorol. Soc.* 89, 1307–1324.
810 doi:10.1175/2008BAMS2508.1

811 Roos-Barraclough, F., Givelet, N., Cheburkin, A.K., Shotyk, W., Norton, S.A., 2006.
812 Use of Br and Se in peat to reconstruct the natural and anthropogenic fluxes of
813 atmospheric Hg: A 10000-year record from Caribou Bog, Maine. *Environ. Sci.*
814 *Technol.* 40, 3188–3194. doi:10.1021/es051945p

815 Rosman, K.J.R., Chisholm, W., Boutron, C.F., Candelone, J.P., Gorlach, U., 1993.
816 Isotopic evidence for the source of lead in Greenland snows since the late 1960s.
817 *Nature* 362, 333–335.

818 Rosman, K.J.R., Chisholm, W., Boutron, C.F., Candelone, J.P., Hong, S., 1994. Isotopic
819 evidence to account for changes in the concentration of lead in Greenland snow
820 between 1960 and 1988. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 58, 3265–3269.
821 doi:10.1016/0016-7037(94)90054-X

822 Rosman, K.J.R., Chisholm, W., Boutron, C.F., Candelone, J.P., Jaffrezo, J.L.,
823 Davidson, C.I., 1998. Seasonal variations in the origin of lead in snow at Dye 3,
824 Greenland. *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.* 160, 383–389. doi:10.1016/S0012-
825 821X(98)00098-3

826 Rosman, K.J.R., Chisholm, W., Hong, S., Candelone, J.P., Boutron, C.F., 1997. Lead
827 from Carthaginian and Roman Spanish mines isotopically identified in Greenland
828 ice dated from 600 B.C. to 300 A.D. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 31, 3413–3416.
829 doi:10.1021/es970038k

830 Rousseau, D.-D., Duzer, D., Cambon, G., Jolly, D., Poulsen, U., Ferrier, J., Schevin, P.,
831 Gros, R., 2003. Long distance transport of pollen to Greenland. *Geophys. Res.*
832 *Lett.* 30, 10–13. doi:10.1029/2003GL017539

833 Shirahata, H., Elias, R.W., Patterson, C.C., Koide, M., 1980. Chronological variations
834 in concentrations and isotopic compositions of anthropogenic atmospheric lead in
835 sediments of a remote subalpine pond. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 44, 149–162.

836 Shotyk, W., Goodsite, M.E., Roos-Barraclough, F., Frei, R., Heinemeier, J., Asmund,
837 G., Lohse, C., Hansen, T.S., 2003. Anthropogenic contributions to atmospheric
838 Hg, Pb and As accumulation recorded by peat cores from southern Greenland and

839 Denmark dated using the ^{14}C “bomb pulse curve.” *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta*
840 67, 3991–4011. doi:10.1016/S0016-7037(03)00409-5

841 Shotyk, W., Goodsite, M.E., Roos-Barraclough, F., Givelet, N., Le Roux, G., Weiss, D.,
842 Cheburkin, A.K., Knudsen, K., Heinemeier, J., van Der Knaap, W., Norton, S. a.,
843 Lohse, C., 2005. Accumulation rates and predominant atmospheric sources of
844 natural and anthropogenic Hg and Pb on the Faroe Islands. *Geochim. Cosmochim.*
845 *Acta* 69, 1–17. doi:10.1016/j.gca.2004.06.011

846 Shotyk, W., Zheng, J., Krachler, M., Zdanowicz, C., Koerner, R., Fisher, D., 2005a.
847 Predominance of industrial Pb in recent snow (1994-2004) and ice (1842-1996)
848 from Devon Island, Arctic Canada. *Geophys. Res. Lett.* 32, 1–4.
849 doi:10.1029/2005GL023860

850 Shotyk, W., Zheng, J., Krachler, M., Zdanowicz, C., Koerner, R., Fisher, D., 2005b.
851 Predominance of industrial Pb in recent snow (1994–2004) and ice (1842–1996)
852 from Devon Island, Arctic Canada. *Geophys. Res. Lett.* 32, 21814.
853 doi:10.1029/2005GL023860

854 Silva-Sánchez, N., Schofield, J.E., Mighall, T.M., Martínez Cortizas, A., Edwards, K.J.,
855 Foster, I., 2015. Climate changes, lead pollution and soil erosion in south
856 Greenland over the past 700 years. *Quat. Res.* 84, 159–173.
857 doi:10.1016/j.yqres.2015.06.001

858 Skov, H., Bossi, R., Massling, A., Sørensen, L.-L., Nøjgaard, J.K., Christensen, J.,
859 Hansen, K.M., Jensen, B., Glasius, M., 2016. Atmospheric Pollution Research on
860 Greenland, in: Kallenborn, R. (Ed.), *Implications and Consequences of*
861 *Anthropogenic Pollution in Polar Environments*. Springer Berlin Heidelberg,
862 Berlin, Heidelberg, pp. 21–39. doi:10.1007/978-3-642-12315-3_3

863 Slemr, F., Schuster, G., Seiler, W., 1985. Distribution, speciation, and budget of
864 atmospheric mercury. *J. Atmos. Chem.* 3, 407–434. doi:10.1007/BF00053870

865 Steinnes, E., Rühling, Å., Lippo, H., Mäkinen, A., 1997. Reference materials for large-
866 scale metal deposition surveys. *Accredit. Qual. Assur.* 2, 243–249.

867 Stohl, A., 2006. Characteristics of atmospheric transport into the Arctic troposphere. *J.*
868 *Geophys. Res. Atmos.* 111, 1–17. doi:10.1029/2005JD006888

869 Streets, D.G., Devane, M.K., Lu, Z., Bond, T.C., Sunderland, E.M., Jacob, D.J., 2011.
870 All-time releases of mercury to the atmosphere from human activities. *Environ.*
871 *Sci. Technol.* 45, 10485–10491. doi:10.1021/es202765m

872 Sturges, W.T., Barrie, L.A., 1989a. Stable lead isotope ratios in Arctic aerosols:

873 evidence for the origin of Arctic air pollution. *Atmos. Environ.* 23, 2513–2519.
874 doi:10.1016/0004-6981(89)90263-1

875 Sturges, W.T., Barrie, L.A., 1989b. Stable lead isotope ratios in arctic aerosols:
876 evidence for the origin of arctic air pollution. *Atmos. Environ.* 23, 2513–2519.
877 doi:10.1016/0004-6981(89)90263-1

878 Sturges, W.T., Barrie, L.A., 1987. Lead 206/207 isotope ratios in the atmosphere of
879 North America as tracers of US and Canadian emissions. *Nature* 329, 144–146.

880 Sturges, W.T., Hopper, J.F., Barrie, L.A., Schnell, R.C., 1993. Stable lead isotope ratios
881 in Alaskan Arctic aerosols. *Atmos. Environ. Part A. Gen. Top.* 27, 2865–2871.

882 Taylor, P.N., Kalsbeek, F., Bridgwater, D., 1992. Discrepancies between neodymium,
883 lead and strontium model ages from the Precambrian of southern East Greenland:
884 Evidence for a Proterozoic granulite-facies event affecting Archaean gneisses.
885 *Chem. Geol.* 94, 281–291. doi:10.1016/S0009-2541(10)80030-0

886 U.S Geological Survey, 2014. Mercury statistics, in Kelly, T.D., and Matos, G.R comps
887 Historical statistics for mineral and material commodities in the United States
888 United States: U.S. Geological Survey Data Series 140.

889 US Energy Information Administration, 2012. Primary Energy Consumption Estimates
890 by Source (1775-2001) [WWW Document]. *Energy Perspect.* Fig. URL
891 <https://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/perspectives.php> (accessed 8.15.17).

892 Weiss, D., Shotyk, W., Appleby, P.G., Kramers, J.D., Cheburkin, A.K., 1999.
893 Atmospheric Pb deposition since the industrial revolution recorded by five Swiss
894 peat profiles: Enrichment factors, fluxes, isotopic composition, and sources.
895 *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 33, 1340–1352. doi:10.1021/es980882q

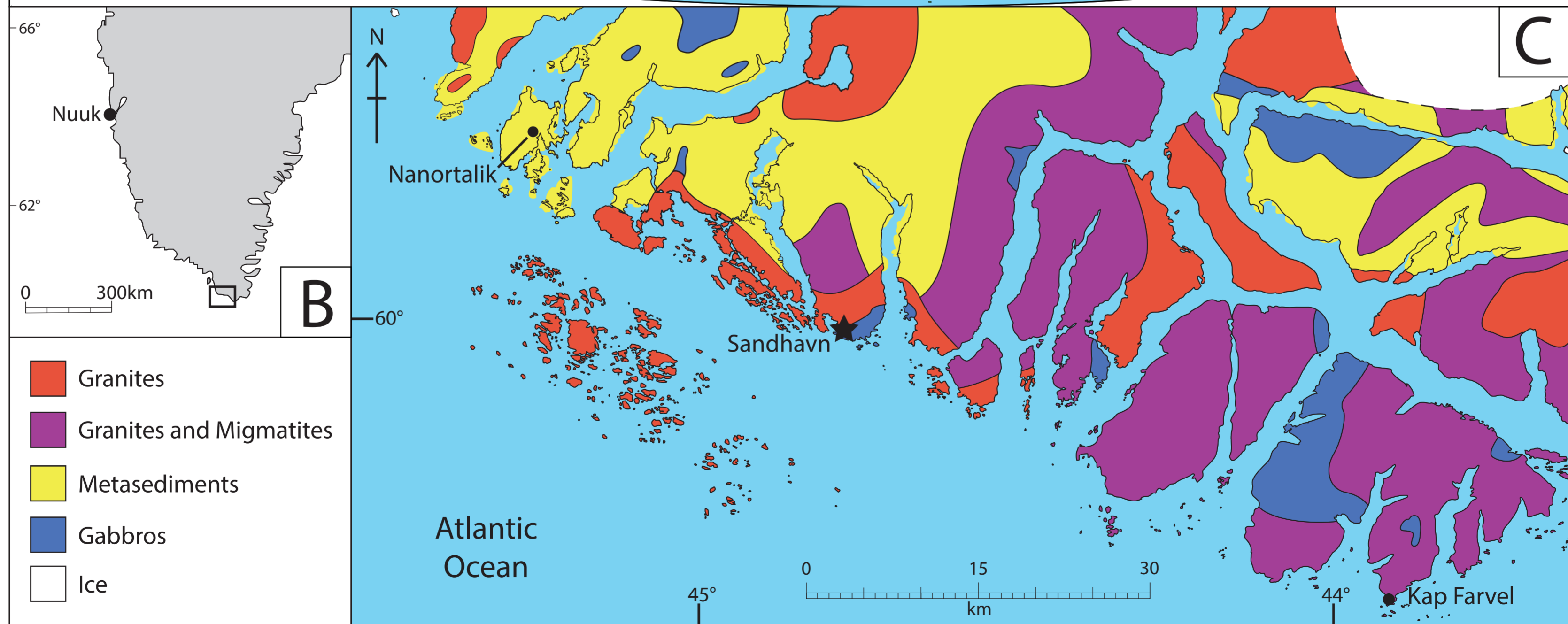
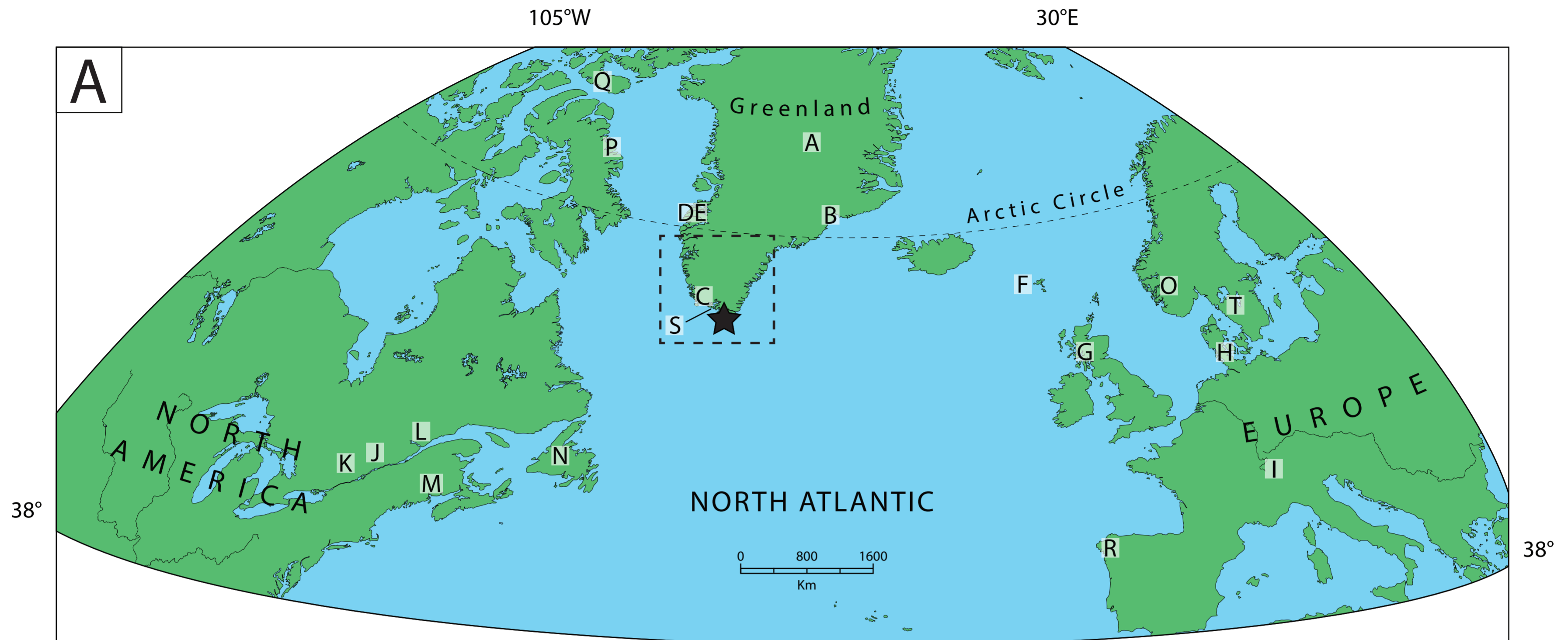
896 Weiss, D.J., Kober, B., Dolgoplova, A., Gallagher, K., Spiro, B., Le Roux, G., Mason,
897 T.F.D., Kylander, M., Coles, B.J., 2004. Accurate and precise Pb isotope ratio
898 measurements in environmental samples by MC-ICP-MS. *Int. J. Mass Spectrom.*
899 232, 205–215. doi:10.1016/j.ijms.2004.01.005

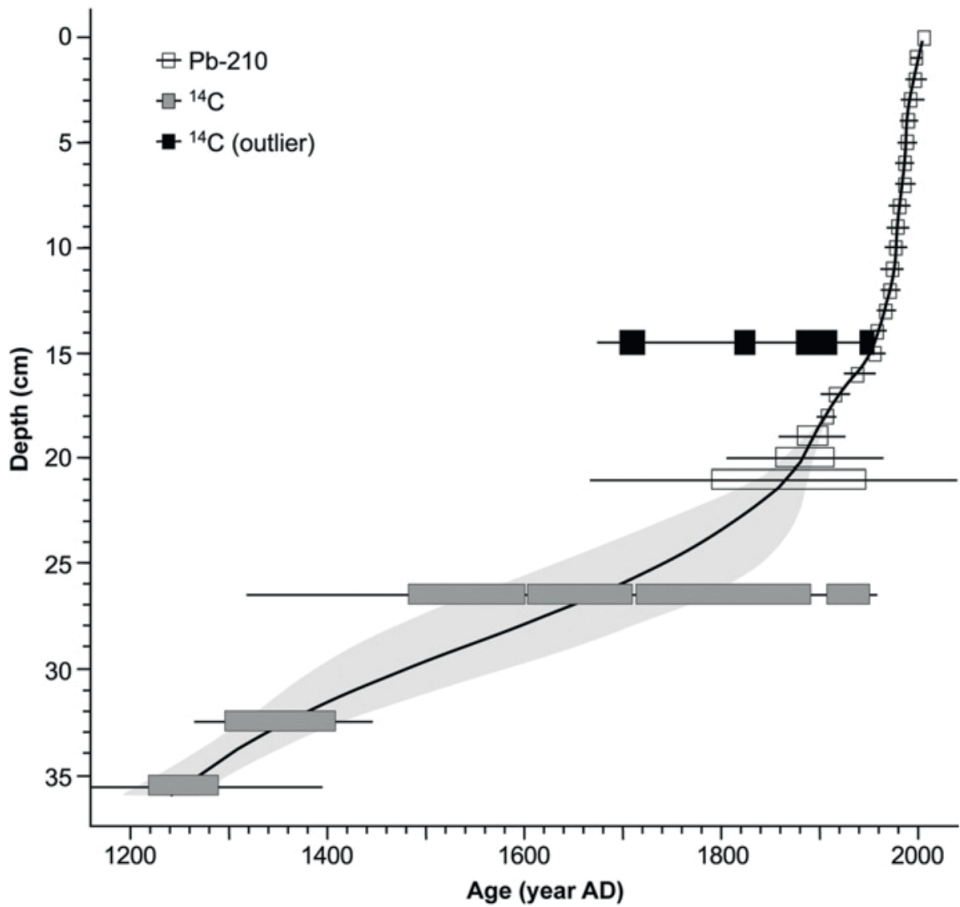
900 Whitehouse, M.J., Kamber, B.S., Fedo, C.M., Lepland, A., 2005. Integrated Pb- and S-
901 isotope investigation of sulphide minerals from the early Archaean of southwest
902 Greenland. *Chem. Geol.* 222, 112–131. doi:10.1016/j.chemgeo.2005.06.004

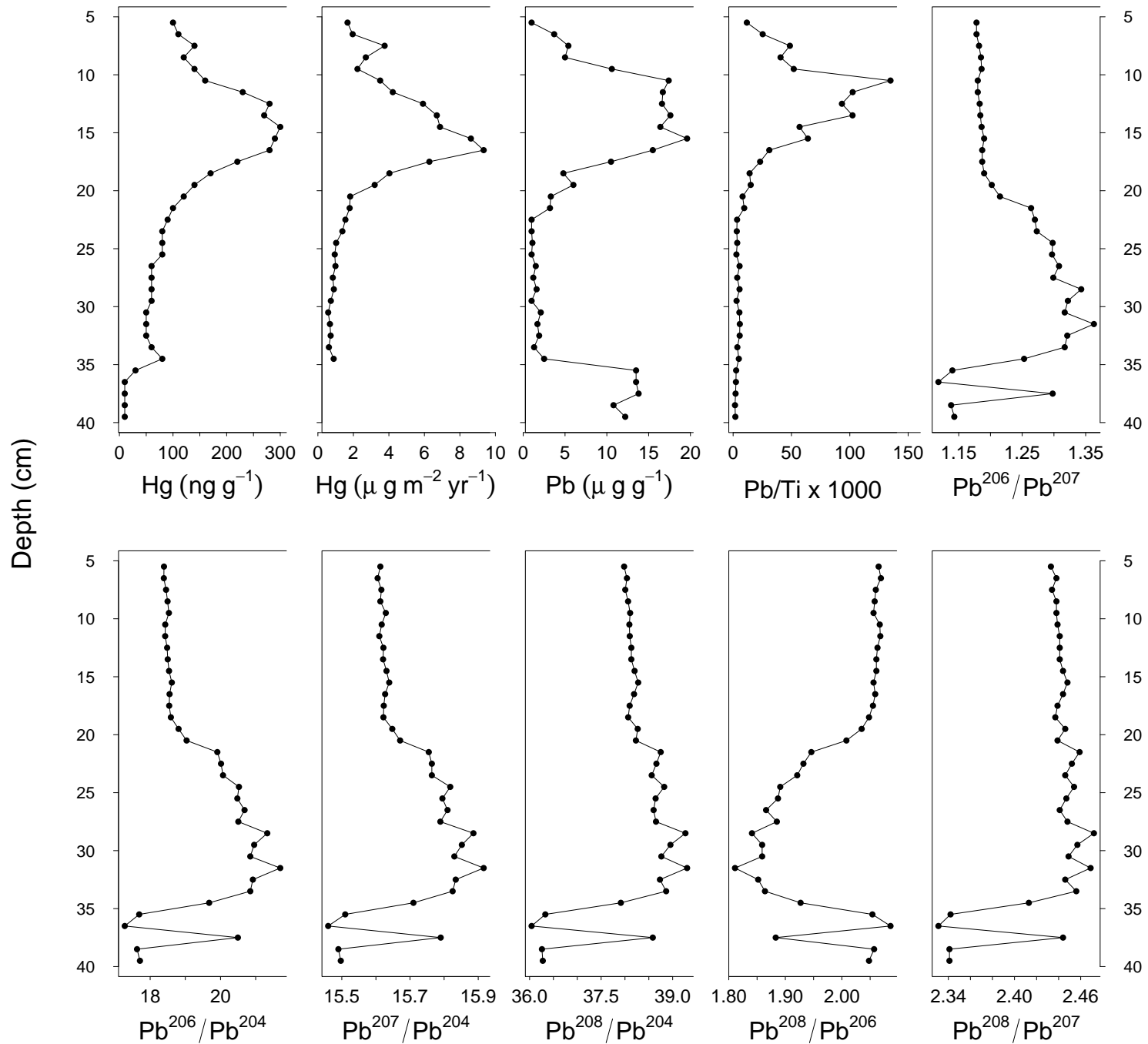
903 Wu, J., Boyle, E.A., 1997. Lead in the western North Atlantic Ocean: Completed
904 response to leaded gasoline phaseout. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* 61, 3279–3283.
905 doi:10.1016/S0016-7037(97)89711-6

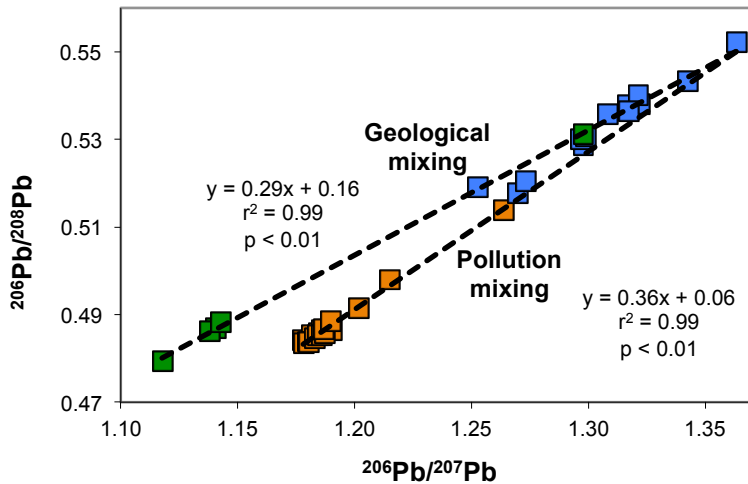
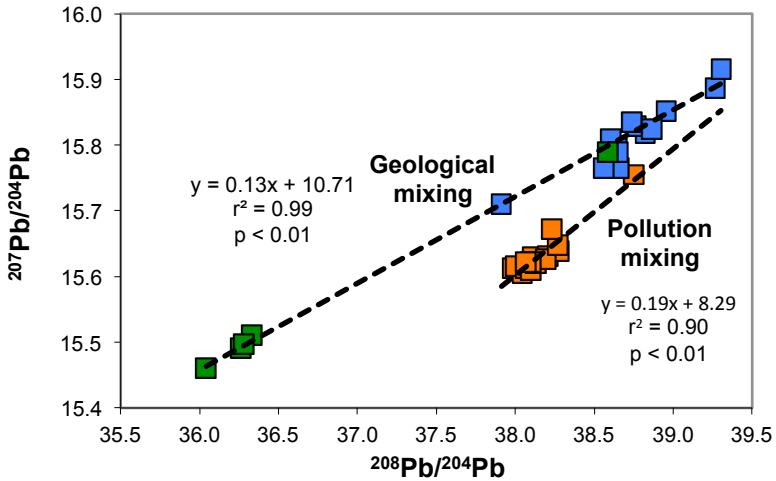
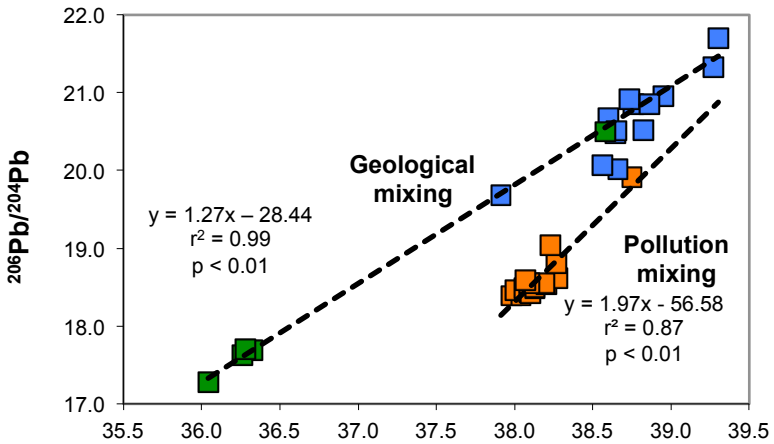
906 Zheng, J., 2015. Archives of total mercury reconstructed with ice and snow from

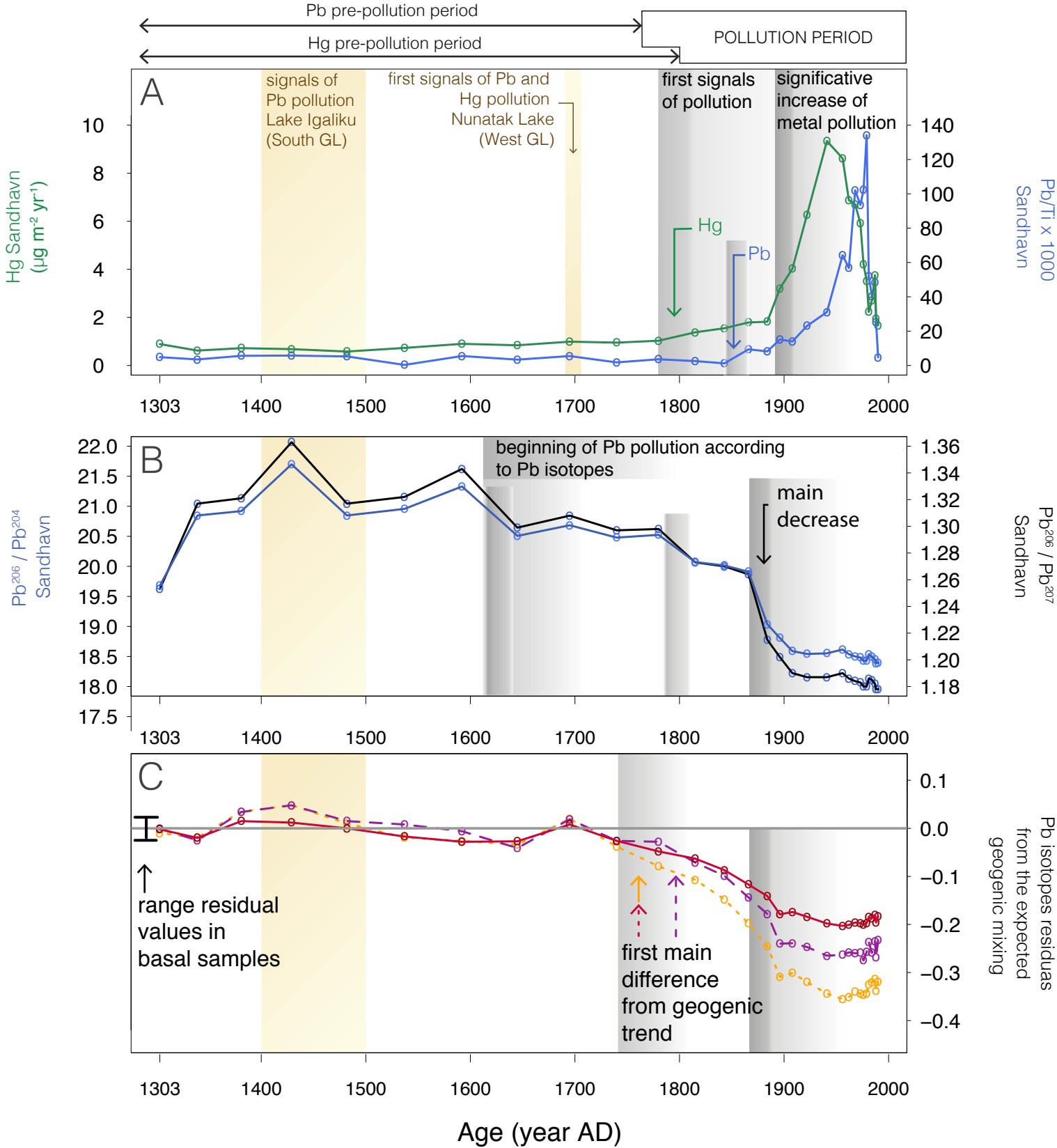
907 Greenland and the Canadian High Arctic. *Sci. Total Environ.* 509–510, 133–144.
908 doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2014.05.078
909

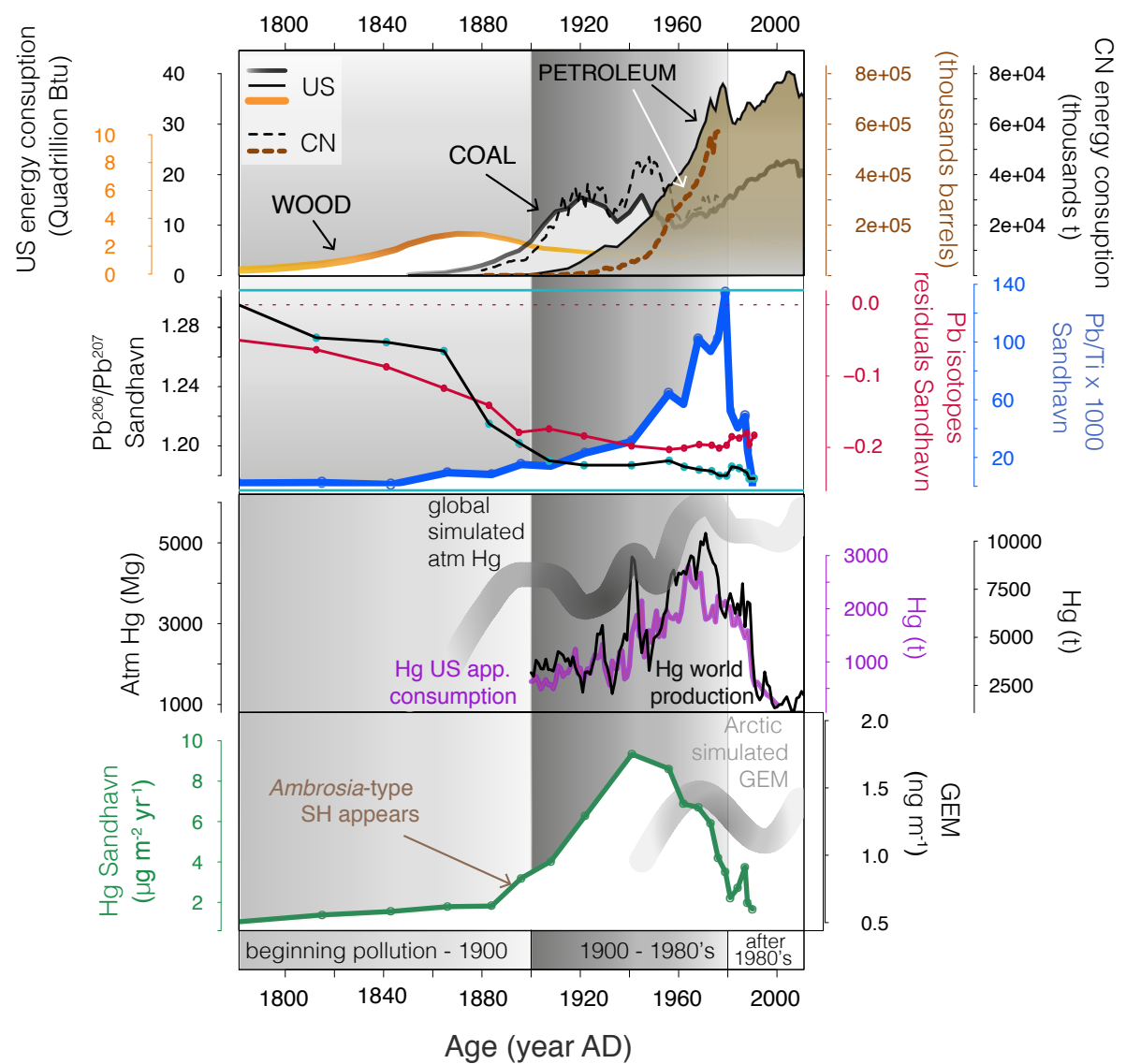




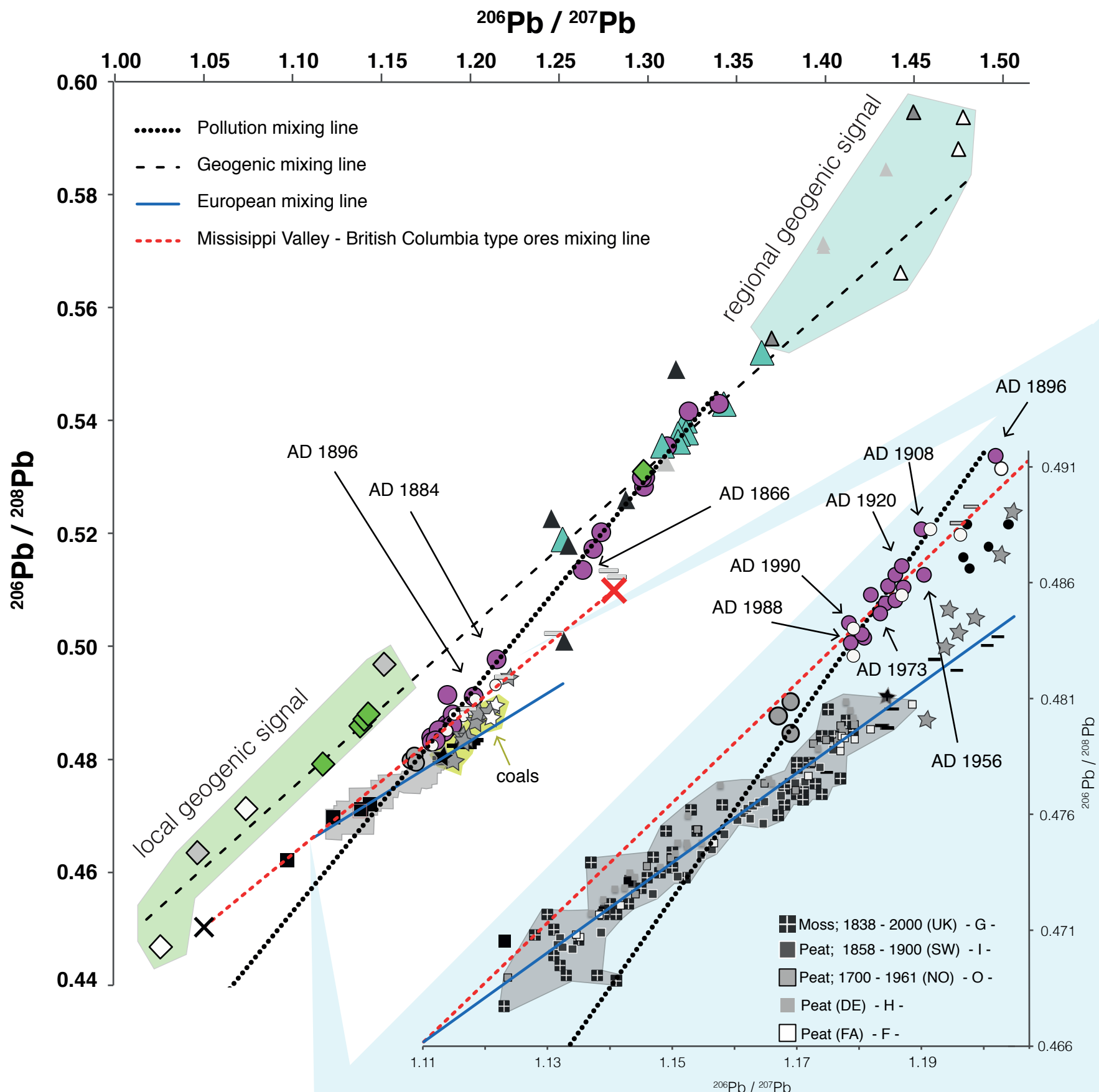








- Sandhavn Industrial peat samples, 1740 - 1990 (GL)
- ▲ Sandhavn Pre-Industrial peat samples, 1300 - 1700 (GL)
- ◆ Sandhavn sand samples (GL)
- ◇ Coastal - granullites & Grey gneisses (GL) - B -
- ◇ Akilia quartz - pyroxene rock - Early Archaean sulphides (GL) - D -
- ▲ Peat; Residue - Geogenic Lead (GL) - C -
- ▲ Qassiarusk - Country rocks (GL) - S -
- ▲ Early Proterozoic Ketilidian Mobile Belt (GL) - S -
- △ Julianahab Granite Ketilidian Mobile Belt (GL) - S -
- Great Lakes Sediments, 1956 - 1992 (US) - J & K -
- Lake Erie sediment; Anthropogenic signal, 1940 - 1989 (US) - K -
- Air; New Founland & Chicoutimi, 1994-1999 (CN) - L & N -
- ▬ Peat; Leachate - Atmospheric Lead (GL) - C -
- ▬ Ice; Summit, 7000 BC - AC 1500 (GL) - A -
- Air; West Europe, 1994 - 1999
- ✕ British Columbia type ores
- ✕ Mississippi Valley type ores
- ★ Coal (US)
- ☆ Coal (CN)
- ★ Coal (EU)



Supporting Information

Industrial-era lead and mercury contamination in southern Greenland implicates North American sources

Marta Pérez-Rodríguez ^{1,2 *}, Noemí Silva-Sánchez ¹, Malin E. Kylander ^{3,4}, Richard Bindler ⁵, Tim M. Mighall ⁶, J. Edward Schofield ⁶, Kevin J. Edwards ^{6,7,8}, Antonio Martínez Cortizas ¹

¹ Departamento de Edafología e Química Agrícola, Facultade de Bioloxía, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Campus Sur, Santiago de Compostela 15782, Spain

² Institut für Geoökologie, AG Umweltgeochemie, Technische Universität Braunschweig, 38106 Braunschweig Germany

³ Department of Geological Sciences, Stockholm University, SE-10691 Stockholm, Sweden

⁴ The Bolin Centre for Climate Research, Stockholm University, SE-10691 Stockholm, Sweden

⁵ Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Umeå University, SE-901 87 Umeå, Sweden

⁶ Department of Geography and Environment, School of Geosciences, University of Aberdeen, Elphinstone Road, Aberdeen AB24 3UF, UK

⁷ Department of Archaeology, School of Geosciences, University of Aberdeen, Elphinstone Road, Aberdeen AB24 3UF, UK

⁸ Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, Herschel Road, Cambridge CB3 9AL, UK

* Corresponding Author:

E-mail: m.perez-rodriguez@tu-bs.de

Current address: Institute of Geoecology - Division of Environmental Geochemistry, Langer Kamp 19c R303B, 38106 Braunschweig Phone: (+)49-(0)531-391-7242

5 Pages

Figure S1. Scatterplot of Hg concentrations against proxies of peat decomposition measured by Silva-Sánchez et al. (2015)

Table S1. Mean (Avg), standard deviation (Sd), maximum (Max) and minimum (Min) values for mercury, lead and lead isotope ratios through the Sandhavn monolith.

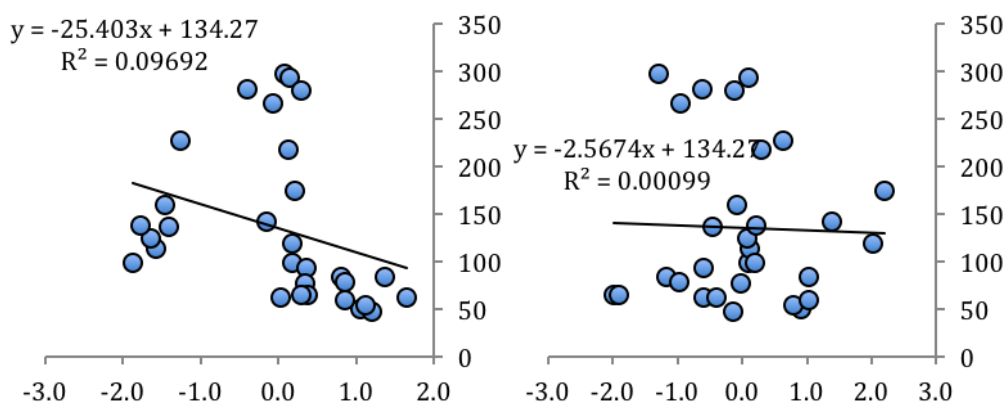


Figure S1. Scatterplot of Hg concentrations against proxies of peat decomposition measured by Silva-Sánchez et al., (2015) (PC1o, left panel; PC3o, right panel) in the Sandhavn record. The p-values of Pearson’s test are 0.09 and 0.88 respectively.

Table S1. Mean (Avg), standard deviation (Sd), maximum (Max) and minimum (Min) values for mercury, lead and lead isotope ratios through the Sandhavn monolith.

		Hg (ng g ⁻¹)	Acc Hg (µg m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	Pb (µg g ⁻¹)	Acc Pb (µg m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	Pb ²⁰⁶ / Pb ²⁰⁴	Pb ²⁰⁷ / Pb ²⁰⁴	Pb ²⁰⁸ / Pb ²⁰⁴	Pb ²⁰⁶ / Pb ²⁰⁷	Pb ²⁰⁶ / Pb ²⁰⁸
Peat	Avg	134	2.88	6.3	144.8	19.508	15.712	38.416	1.241	0.508
	Sd	81.6	2.54	6.6	174.5	1.115	0.101	0.392	0.063	0.024
	Max	297	9.34	19.6	577.9	21.699	15.916	39.302	1.363	0.522
	Min	47	0.58	0.1	1.3	18.389	15.605	37.913	1.178	0.483
Sand	Avg	14	-	12.8	-	18.160	15.549	36.698	1.167	0.494
	Sd	7.8	-	1.2	-	1.316	0.136	1.060	0.074	0.02
	Max	28	-	13.8	-	20.494	15.790	38.583	1.298	0.531
	Min	9	-	10.8	-	17.278	15.460	36.042	1.118	0.479

References

Silva-Sánchez, N., Schofield, J.E., Mighall, T.M., Martínez Cortizas, A., Edwards, K.J., Foster, I., 2015. Climate changes, lead pollution and soil erosion in south Greenland over the past 700 years. *Quat. Res.* 84, 159–173.
doi:10.1016/j.yqres.2015.06.001