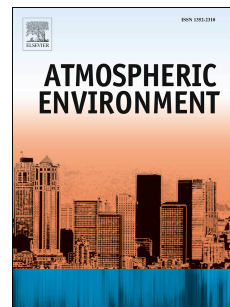


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1 **Quantification of manganese species in particulate matter collected in an urban**
2 **area nearby a manganese alloy plant**

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12 **Abstract**

13 A sequential extraction test was used to evaluate the manganese (Mn) species in PM₁₀
14 samples collected in an urban area impacted by a Mn alloy plant, where the annual
15 guideline value for Mn in air according to the World Health Organization (WHO) is
16 frequently exceeded (i.e. > 150 ng·m⁻³). The average Mn level in this campaign was
17 208.6 ng·m⁻³, reaching maximum daily values up to 1138.9 ng·m⁻³. Manganese species
18 were dominated by water-soluble Mn (49.9%), followed by metallic Mn (Mn⁰) and
19 Mn²⁺ (27.1%), insoluble Mn (14.6%), and Mn³⁺ and Mn⁴⁺ (8.8%). This study reveals,
20 on one hand, the higher fraction of water-soluble Mn species present in atmospheric
21 aerosols in comparison with aerosols collected in work environments of the Mn alloy
22 industry, which is attributed to the reaction between emitted Mn oxides and gaseous
23 pollutants (SO₂, NO₂ and HCl) during transport in the atmosphere. On the other hand,
24 there was a non-negligible fraction of more toxic species (Mn³⁺ and Mn⁴⁺), which are
25 more potent than Mn²⁺ to induce reactive oxygen species.

26

27

28 **Keywords**

29 Manganese; Speciation; PM₁₀; Manganese alloy plant; Environmental exposure

30 1. Introduction

31 Air manganese (Mn) overexposure is an important cause of concern in urban areas
32 affected by the activity of the Mn alloy industry. Although Mn is vital for the human
33 body, recent studies suggest that Mn chronic exposure is associated with neurotoxic
34 disorders (Lucchini et al., 2012; Menezes-Filho et al., 2011). In this regard, despite the
35 lack of a European regulation that establishes limit values for Mn in air, the World
36 Health Organization (WHO) has proposed an annual average guideline value of 150
37 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$. This recommendation is frequently exceeded in areas affected by the emissions
38 from Mn alloy plants (Hernández-Pellón and Fernández-Olmo, 2019).

39 Mn toxicity is associated with the size and morphology of the Mn-bearing particulate
40 matter (PM), which determine the fate of this pollutant into the respiratory tract
41 (Thomassen et al., 2001); in addition, the chemical speciation of Mn compounds and
42 more specifically the Mn oxidation state strongly affects its toxicity (Majestic et al.,
43 2007). The oxidation state is a key factor in relation with Mn ability to induce reactive
44 oxygen species (ROS). Many of the adverse health effects caused by PM can be
45 triggered by the oxidative stress caused by the ROS generation (Xiang et al., 2016).
46 These species are also known due to their capacity to oxidize lipids and proteins or
47 damage DNA, increasing the inflammatory response, which can lead to numerous
48 diseases, mainly respiratory diseases (He et al., 2018; Peixoto et al., 2017; Van Den
49 Heuvel et al., 2016; Xiang et al., 2016). In this regard, oxidized forms of Mn such as
50 Mn^{3+} are more potent than Mn^{2+} to induce ROS (Ali et al., 1995). Studies dealing with
51 the physico-chemical characterization of Mn-bearing particles associated with the
52 emissions from Mn alloy plants have mainly focused on: (i) the evaluation of the size,
53 morphology and chemical composition of the individual particles by using electron
54 microscopy analysis (e.g. SEM-EDX and TEM-EDX analysis) (Arndt et al., 2016;
55 Gjønnnes et al., 2011; Gunst et al., 2000; Hernández-Pellón et al., 2017; Marris et al.,
56 2012, 2013), (ii) the identification of the crystallographic phases by X-ray diffraction
57 techniques (Hernández-Pellón et al., 2017; Marris et al., 2013), and (iii) the
58 determination of the Mn solubility in simulated lung fluids (SLFs) as an estimation of
59 its potential bioaccessibility into the human body (Hernández-Pellón et al., 2018;
60 Mbengue et al., 2015). Only a few studies deal with the quantitative determination of
61 the Mn species, all being related to Mn occupational exposure (Ellingsen et al., 2003;

62 Thomassen et al., 2001). To our knowledge, none of them aim to quantify the Mn
63 species associated with ambient air Mn exposure.

64 In this study, a sequential extraction test was used to investigate the Mn species present
65 in PM₁₀ samples collected in an urban area located near a Mn alloy plant, where high
66 Mn levels in air, according to the WHO criteria, have been previously reported
67 (Hernández-Pellón and Fernández-Olmo, 2019; Moreno et al., 2011).

68 **2. Materials and methods**

69 The study was carried out in Maliaño, a town located in the southern part of the
70 Santander Bay (Cantabria, northern Spain). A PM₁₀ sampling campaign was conducted
71 in May-June 2016 on the rooftop of “La Vidriera” cultural center (CCV site, UTM, 30T,
72 X=431899, Y=4807290) located 350 m from a Mn alloy plant, which specializes in
73 FeMn and SiMn alloy production. A total of 28 daily PM₁₀ samples were collected on
74 47 mm quartz fiber filters (Sartorius) by a low volume sampler device (2.3 m³·h⁻¹)
75 equipped with a 15-filter cartridge. Figure 1 shows the location of the CCV site and Mn
76 alloy plant and the wind rose during the sampling period.

77 After a gravimetric determination, the filters were cut into three pieces. One quarter of
78 the filter was used for the determination of the total Mn content, whereas the remaining
79 filter was divided into two equal portions and subjected to a sequential extraction test
80 (two replicates per filter). The total Mn content was determined based on the European
81 standard method “EN-UNE 14902:2006”, which consisted in an acid digestion of the
82 filter in a microwave digestion system (Milestone Ethos One) using closed PTFE
83 vessels (HNO₃:H₂O₂ with a mixture of 8:2 ml, up to 220 °C). The Mn species were
84 determined by a four-step sequential extraction test based on the methodology
85 developed by Thomassen et al. (2001). Table 1 shows the optimized leaching conditions
86 for the different Mn species. The sequential extraction procedure was carried out as
87 follows:

88 Step 1: A portion of 3/8 of each filter (two replicates per filter) was introduced into a 50
89 ml polypropylene tube with a 25 ml filter cup insert equipped with 0.2 μm PVDF
90 membrane obtained from ThermoScientific. A volume of 10 ml of ammonium acetate
91 (0.01M) was added. The leaching test was then performed for 90 min with a rotatory
92 shaker (10 rpm) (SBS). An incubator (MRHX-04, LSCI) was used to maintain the

93 temperature at 20°C. After the leaching test was performed, the samples were
94 centrifuged at 4200 rpm for 10 min.

95 The following steps of the sequential extraction test were carried out in the same
96 microwave digestion system (Milestone Ethos One) and closed PTFE vessels used for
97 the total Mn determination. After the leaching steps 2, 3 and 4, the content of the PTFE
98 vessels was introduced in the mentioned polypropylene tubes equipped with 0.2 µm
99 PVDF membranes and centrifuged at 4200 rpm for 10 min. Then the portion of filter
100 was stored until further use.

101 Step 2: After being subjected to step 1, the portion of the filter was introduced in a
102 closed PTFE vessel with 10 ml of acetic acid (25%). Then, the leaching test was carried
103 out at 75°C for 90 min.

104 Step 3: The extracting agent in this step consisted of 10 ml of a solution of
105 hydroxylamine hydrochloride (5%) in acetic acid (25%). As in step 2, the leaching test
106 was then performed at 75°C for 90 min.

107 Step 4: The last step of the sequential extraction test consisted in an acid digestion
108 (HNO₃:H₂O₂ with a mixture of 8:2 ml, up to 220 °C) performed for 60 min.

109 The Mn concentrations in all the extracts were analyzed by inductively coupled plasma
110 mass spectrometry (ICP-MS, Agilent 7500 CE). Quality control of the analytical
111 procedure consisted in the determination of the recovery values from a standard
112 reference material (NIST SRM 1648a, “Urban particulate matter”), as well as the
113 evaluation of the blank contribution from the filters and reagents and subsequent
114 subtraction from the results. In addition, yttrium was used as an internal standard to
115 correct from instrumental drifts.

116 In addition, the comparison between the total Mn content determined by the digestion
117 procedure and the sum of the Mn extracted in the four steps of the sequential extraction
118 test was done to check the quality of the obtained results ($r^2=0.98$).

119 Statistical analysis of the data was performed using R statistical software version 3.0.0.
120 All data distributions were checked for normality using the Shapiro-Wilks test. The
121 interdependence between the total Mn content (ng·m⁻³), PM₁₀ concentrations (µg·m⁻³)
122 and the meteorological variables (temperature (°C), precipitation (mm) and relative
123 humidity (%)) was evaluated by determining the Pearson correlation coefficients.

124

125 **3. Results and discussion**

126 As Table 2 shows, despite the average PM₁₀ concentration at the CCV site (26.6 µg·m⁻³)
127 was well below the annual limit value established by Directive 2008/50/CE (40 µg·m⁻³),
128 the mean air Mn concentration obtained in this campaign (208.6 ng·m⁻³) was above the
129 150 ng·m⁻³ recommended by the WHO as the annual guideline value, reaching
130 maximum daily concentrations up to 1138.9 ng·m⁻³. As can be seen in Table 3, a strong
131 correlation was found between the PM₁₀ concentrations and the total Mn content present
132 in the samples (r=0.65, p<0.05). In addition, the Mn values shown in this work are
133 much lower in comparison with average Mn concentrations obtained in previous
134 campaigns carried out at the CCV site in 2015 and 2017 (i.e. 721.9 ng·m⁻³ and 901.1
135 ng·m⁻³, respectively) (Hernández-Pellón et al., 2018; Hernández-Pellón and Fernández-
136 Olmo, 2019). In this regard, mean values of temperature (20 °C) and relative humidity
137 (81.6 %) were similar to those usually found in spring in the same area. In addition,
138 since the sampling campaign coincided with a period of low rainfall (average 1.3
139 mm/day), the lower Mn concentrations in air can not be explained due to the washing
140 effect of precipitation in the atmosphere. In accordance with this, as Table 3 shows, no
141 significant correlations were found between any of the mentioned variables and the total
142 Mn content. However, the unusual wind pattern found during the sampling period could
143 explain the measured Mn levels. Whereas most frequent winds in this region come from
144 the S-SW direction, sending the plume emanating from the plant towards the CCV site,
145 during this campaign, as Figure 1 shows, N was the predominant wind direction, which
146 may lead to a lower influence of the Mn emissions from the Mn alloy plant on this
147 sampling site.

148 Figure 2 presents the variability in the Mn speciation associated with the PM₁₀ samples
149 collected at the CCV site. The Mn species were dominated by water-soluble Mn
150 (49.9%), followed by Mn⁰ and Mn²⁺ (27.1%), insoluble Mn (14.6%), and Mn³⁺ and
151 Mn⁴⁺ (8.8%).

152 In this regard, Marris et al. (2013) reported that particles collected in the near-field of a
153 Mn alloy plant, analyzed by TEM combined with electron energy-loss spectroscopy
154 (EELS), contained Mn with an oxidation state mainly between +II and + III. Also
155 Ledoux et al. (2006) identified by electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) different
156 forms of Mn²⁺ species in areas affected by the emissions from a ferromanganese plant.
157 Manganese dioxide (MnO₂), bixbyite (Mn₂O₃) and rhodochrosite (MnCO₃) were
158 previously identified by XRD in PM₁₀ samples collected in the studied area

159 (Hernández-Pellón et al., 2017). Additionally, Gjønnnes et al. (2011) reported the
160 presence of MnO and Mn₃O₄ associated with the FeMn alloy production from TEM
161 observations.

162 Table 4 shows the comparison between the average percentages of the different Mn
163 species obtained in this study and other works performed inside Mn alloy plants, with
164 mixed FeMn/SiMn or only SiMn alloy production, using the same sequential extraction
165 test (Ellingsen et al., 2003; Thomassen et al., 2001). Contrary to the results found in the
166 present work, in which the water-soluble Mn compounds represented the highest
167 percentage, Mn⁰ and Mn²⁺ were the predominant species obtained in both respirable and
168 inhalable aerosol samples collected in different areas inside mixed FeMn/SiMn alloy
169 plants. The percentage of insoluble Mn in the work environments of these mixed
170 FeMn/SiMn alloy plants was similar to the Mn insoluble fraction found in the PM₁₀ in
171 the present study. On the contrary, the presence of Mn³⁺ and Mn⁴⁺ in both respirable
172 and inhalable aerosol samples was slightly higher in the other mixed FeMn/SiMn alloy
173 production plants showed in Table 4 with respect to our study, obtaining similar values
174 in plants dedicated only to SiMn alloy production, in both respirable and inhalable
175 aerosols samples. Although Mn⁰ and Mn²⁺ also presented a high contribution in the
176 plants dedicated only to the production of SiMn alloys, in these plants the percentage of
177 insoluble Mn species was also remarkable, this contribution being in some cases higher
178 than the contribution of Mn⁰ and Mn²⁺, especially in the inhalable aerosol fraction
179 (Ellingsen et al., 2003; Thomassen et al., 2001).

180 It should be noted that the comparison between the results presented in Table 4 should
181 be done with caution due to the difference in the PM size fractions collected in each
182 study. Both Thomassen et al. (2001) and Ellingsen et al. (2003) reported the
183 quantification of the Mn species present in the inhalable and respirable aerosol
184 fractions. The inhalable fraction is defined as the mass fraction of total airborne
185 particles inhaled through the nose and mouth, whereas the respirable fraction is the
186 mass fraction of inhaled particles penetrating to the unciliated airways (UNE-EN
187 481:1995). The particle sizes with 50% penetration for the inhalable and respirable
188 fractions are 100 µm and 4.0 µm, respectively (UNE-EN 481:1995). In this regard, a
189 previous characterization of PM₁₀ samples collected at the CCV site showed that most
190 of the Mn-bearing particles had mean diameters of less than 1 µm (Hernández-Pellón et
191 al., 2017), and therefore they were included in the respirable fraction.

192 The greater presence of water-soluble Mn compounds in the PM₁₀ samples collected at
193 the CCV site with respect to the results reported in the different workroom
194 environments inside Mn alloy plants (see Table 4) could be attributed to the changes of
195 the particles emitted by this industrial activity during transport in the atmosphere.
196 According to Marris et al. (2012) particles can evolve quickly in composition and size,
197 forming agglomerates of metal-bearing particles and other supplementary mixed
198 particles not existing inside the chimneys. In this regard, as Figure 1 shows, under the
199 prevailing wind scenario during the sampling period (i.e. N direction) the plume
200 emanating from the Mn alloy plant was not sent directly towards the CCV site, thus
201 favoring the mixing of particles from different sources and allowing chemical
202 transformations of the Mn compounds before reaching the sampling site.

203 No association was done in previous studies between the water-soluble Mn species
204 extracted in the first step of the sequential extraction test and specific Mn compounds
205 (Ellingsen et al., 2003; Thomassen et al., 2001). Since the water-soluble fraction was
206 predominant in the PM₁₀ samples collected at the CCV site, the knowledge about the
207 oxidation states of these soluble compounds is of special interest in our study. In this
208 regard, the presence of Mn in association with Cl or S was reported by Ledoux et al.
209 (2006) in PM₁₀ samples collected at a coastal area affected by the emissions from a
210 ferromanganese plant. Also, Mn-bearing particles containing sulfates were detected in
211 the plume emanating from a Mn alloy plant by Marris et al. (2012). Zhan et al. (2018)
212 also suggested that PM-bound metals, such as Fe, Mn and Ni, can react with gaseous
213 nitric acid in the atmosphere, leading to the formation of metal nitrates, which could
214 increase the oxidative potential to a 200-600 %. As reported by Duvall et al. (2008) the
215 increase in the water-soluble fraction of Mn in soil samples after reaction with gaseous
216 nitric acid is especially evident. Thus, and based on the significant contribution of
217 marine (Cl⁻, Na⁺ and SO₄²⁻) and secondary inorganic aerosols (SO₄²⁻ and NO₃²⁻) in the
218 area of study (Orden MED/11/2012), the reactions between primary Mn-bearing
219 particles and gaseous pollutants such as SO₂, NO₂ and HCl to form Mn soluble salts
220 seem feasible. Two main hypotheses are established: (i) Mn soluble salts may result
221 from the reaction of Mn oxides emitted by the Mn alloy plant with primary pollutants
222 such as SO₂ and NO₂, as shown in reactions 1 and 2, or from the condensation of
223 sulphuric or nitric acid on pre-existing particles (Marris et al., 2012) via reactions 3 and

224 4; (ii) highly soluble MnCl_2 could be form due to the reaction of Mn oxides with HCl
225 depleted from aged sea salts via reactions 5-7.

226



234 Assuming hypotheses (i) and (ii), the oxidation state of Mn in the species associated
235 with the water-soluble fraction would be +II. Nevertheless, further work should be
236 carried out to verify the oxidation state and chemical composition of the highly soluble
237 Mn species found in this study. In the case that hypothesis (i) and (ii) were validated,
238 and considering the first and partially the second step of the sequential extraction test,
239 the predominant Mn oxidation state in the PM_{10} samples collected in the vicinity of the
240 Mn alloy plant during the studied sampling period would be +II.

241 Regarding the implications on the ROS generation, the acid gas aging process of Mn^{2+}
242 bearing particles from non-water soluble Mn oxides to water-soluble Mn species
243 increases the oxidative potential of particulate matter, as suggested by Zhan et al.
244 (2018), therefore, the potential changes in the oxidative potential of Mn-bearing
245 particles due to chemical transformations during transport in the atmosphere should be
246 further studied. In addition, in regard to the toxicity of these samples, the presence of a
247 small fraction of Mn^{+3} and Mn^{+4} species (8.8 %) should not be neglected due to the
248 greater capacity of these species to induce ROS with respect to Mn^{+2} (Ali et al., 1995).

249 From a health risk perspective, all the PM components that are soluble in different
250 fluids should be considered. The evaluation of the bioaccessible fraction of metals (i.e.
251 potentially available for absorption by the human body) is usually carried out by the
252 study of their solubility in SLFs. In this regard, Figure 3 shows the comparison between
253 the Mn soluble fractions (water-soluble and all soluble Mn species) derived from the
254 sequential extraction test performed in this study and the Mn solubility reported in two
255 common SLFs, Gamble's solution (pH=7.4) and artificial lysosomal fluid (ALF, pH=

256 4.5), in PM_{10} samples collected at the CCV site in a previous campaign (Hernández-
257 Pellón et al., 2018). Gamble's solution is representative of the interstitial fluid in the
258 deep lung, whereas ALF simulates the acidic intracellular conditions found in the
259 lysosomes of alveolar macrophages (i.e. when the immune system of the body is
260 reacting). As can be seen in Figure 3, although the samples were collected during
261 different sampling periods, there is a good agreement between the sum of the Mn
262 species obtained in the first three steps of the sequential extraction test (i.e. all soluble
263 Mn compounds) and the Mn solubility in ALF at pH=4.5. However, the water-soluble
264 Mn fraction found in this study (i.e. from samples collected under prevailing N winds)
265 is higher with respect to the Mn solubility in Gamble's solution (pH=7.4) found in our
266 previous work (i.e. with a predominant S-SW wind direction, sending the plume directly
267 towards the sampling site) (Hernández-Pellón et al., 2018). In this regard, the joint study
268 into the oxidation state and chemical composition, and the bioaccessibility of Mn
269 species, taking into consideration the potential transformations of the emitted Mn
270 species, is advisable to better assess the potential health risk of Mn environmental
271 exposure near Mn alloy plants.

272 **Conclusions**

273 The manganese (Mn) species present in PM_{10} samples collected in an urban area nearby
274 a Mn alloy plant were evaluated by a sequential extraction test. Manganese species
275 followed the order: water-soluble Mn (49.9%), Mn^0 and Mn^{2+} (27.1%), insoluble Mn
276 (14.6%), and Mn^{3+} and Mn^{4+} (8.8%). The percentage of water-soluble Mn species in the
277 PM_{10} samples collected in this study was much higher in comparison with other results
278 reported in work environments of the Mn industry. This difference was attributed to the
279 formation of Mn soluble compounds due to the reaction of Mn oxides primary emitted
280 by the Mn alloy plant with gaseous pollutants, such as SO_2 , NO_2 and HCl.

281 Further work should be done to verify the oxidation state and chemical composition of
282 the predominant highly soluble Mn species found in this study. In addition, a deeper
283 understanding of the oxidation state, chemical composition and bioaccessibility of the
284 Mn present in PM, as well as its potential changes during transport in the atmosphere, is
285 vital to improve the assessment of the potential health risk of Mn environmental
286 exposure nearby Mn alloy plants.

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405 Table 1. Optimized leaching conditions for Mn species

Step	Oxidation state	Mn compounds	Reagent	Conditions
1	Water-soluble Mn	-	0.01 M ammonium acetate	90 min, 20°C
2	Mn ⁰ and Mn ²⁺	Metallic Mn, FeMn, MnO, Mn ₃ O ₄	25% acetic acid	90 min, 75°C
3	Mn ³⁺ and Mn ⁴⁺	Mn ₂ O ₃ , MnO ₂ , Mn ₃ O ₄	0.5% hydroxylamine hydrochloride in 25% acetic acid	90 min, 75°C
4	Insoluble Mn	SiMn	69% nitric acid-30% oxygen peroxide 8:2	60 min, 220°C

406

407 Table 2. PM₁₀ levels, total Mn content and meteorological conditions (precipitation,
408 temperature and relative humidity) at CCV during the sampling period. 28 daily values.

	PM ₁₀	Total Mn	Precipitation	Temperature	Relative humidity
	μg·m ⁻³	ng·m ⁻³	mm/day	°C	%
Mean	26.6	208.6	1.3	20	81.6
Median	27.1	83.2	0	20.4	82.1
SD	4.9	311.3	3.4	1.8	5.5
Min	16.3	5.8	0	16.5	70.6
Max	34.4	1138.9	17	24	90.9

409

410 Table 3. Pearson correlation coefficients between the total Mn content, PM₁₀ levels and
411 meteorological variables. 28 daily samples.

	PM ₁₀	P	T	HR
Total Mn	0.65	-0.11	0.17	0.01
PM ₁₀		-0.44	0.23	0.15
P			-0.48	-0.12
T				0.32

412 P: Precipitation (mm); T: Temperature (°C); HR: Relative humidity (%). In bold p value<0.05

413

414 Table 4. Comparison of the proportion of Mn species in % of the total Mn content in aerosol samples impacted by the Mn alloy industry

Production	Sample	Water-soluble Mn	Mn ⁰ and Mn ²⁺	Mn ⁺³ and Mn ⁺⁴	Insoluble Mn	References
Mixed FeMn/SiMn alloys	PM ₁₀	49.9	27.1	8.8	14.6	This study ^a
Mixed FeMn/SiMn alloys	Respirable	8-21*	57-62*	9-17*	13-18*	Thomassen et al. (2001) ^b
	Inhalable	8-21	50-54*	12-22*	16-24*	Thomassen et al. (2001) ^c
	Respirable	10.5	59.8	14.6	15.0	Ellingsen et al. (2003) ^b
	Inhalable	9.8	52.2	20.1	17.9	Ellingsen et al. (2003) ^c
Only SiMn alloys	Respirable	7-14	31-51*	7-10*	27-55*	Thomassen et al. (2001) ^b
	Inhalable	2-7	23-42*	6-11*	43-70*	Thomassen et al. (2001) ^c
	Respirable	11.2	47.2	9.3	32.3	Ellingsen et al. (2003) ^b
	Inhalable	5.0	37.9	9.0	48.1	Ellingsen et al. (2003) ^c

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416 ^a PM₁₀ samples collected 350 m from the Mn alloy plant417 ^b Respirable aerosol samples collected in different areas inside the Mn alloy plants418 ^c Inhalable aerosol samples collected in different areas inside the Mn alloy plants

419 * Minimum and maximum percentage

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423 **Figure captions**

424

425 Figure 1. Location of the sampling site and manganese alloy plant. Wind rose of the
426 sampling period (12 May-9 June 2016) developed with Openair tools. According to
427 Beaufort scale, calm criteria $0.28 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$.

428 Figure 2. Variability in the Mn species (%) associated with the PM_{10} samples collected
429 at the CCV site, according to the sequential extraction test.

430 Figure 3. Comparison between the Mn soluble fractions (water-soluble and all soluble
431 Mn species) derived from the sequential extraction test and the Mn solubility in two
432 common SLFs (from Hernández-Pellón et al., 2018).

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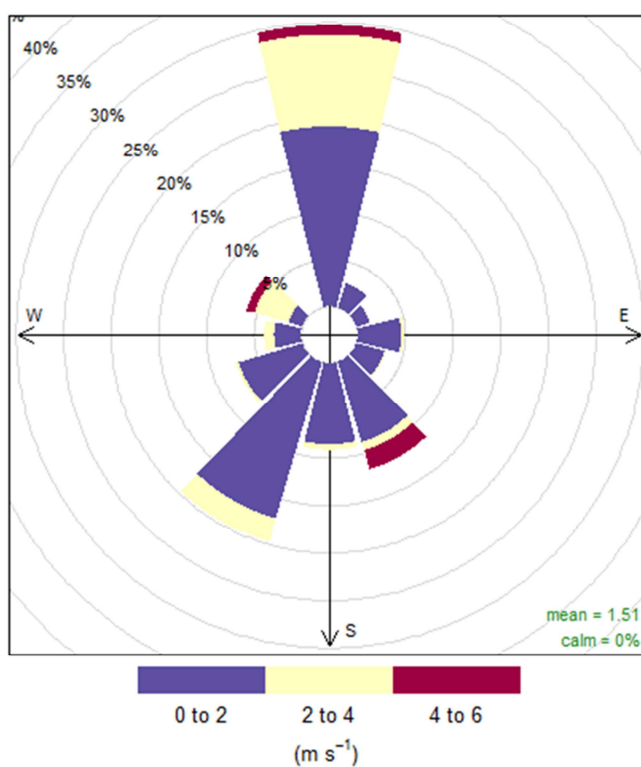
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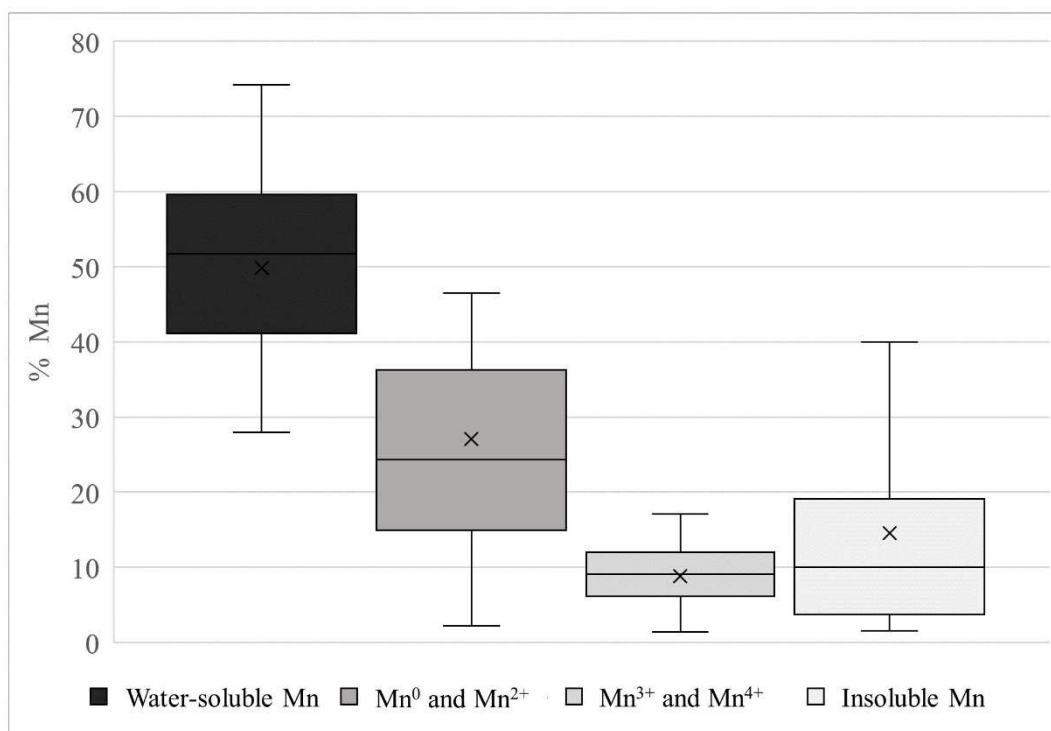
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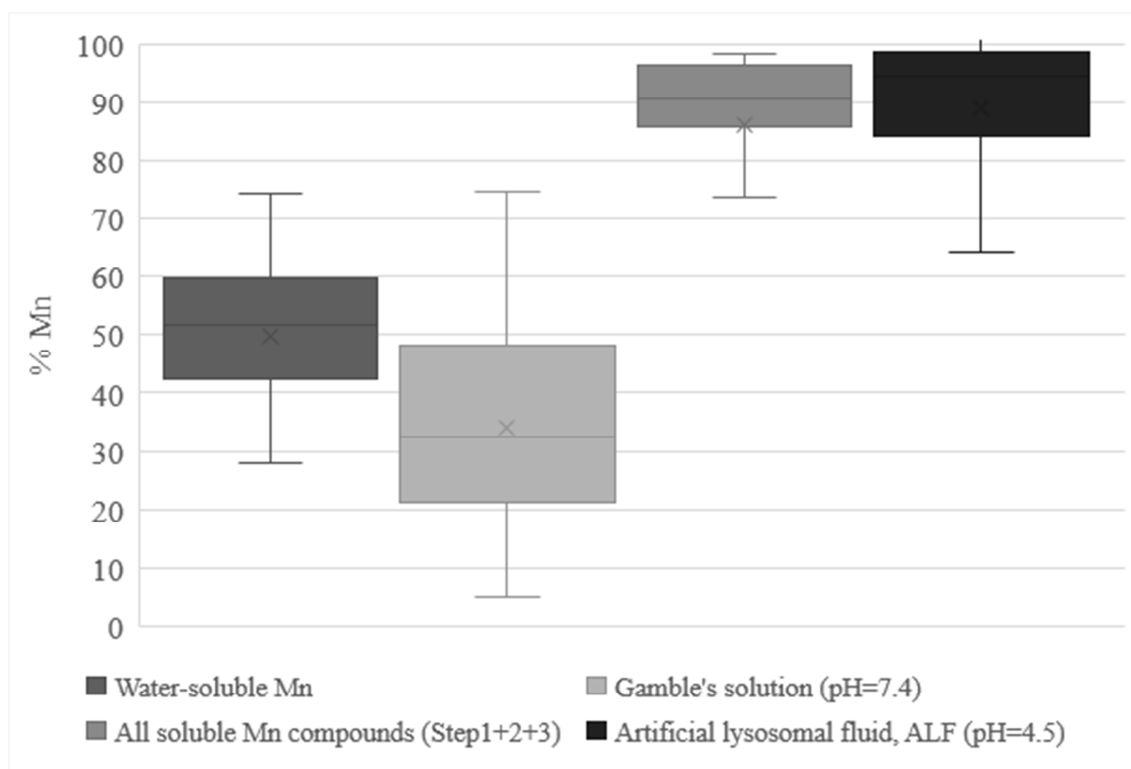
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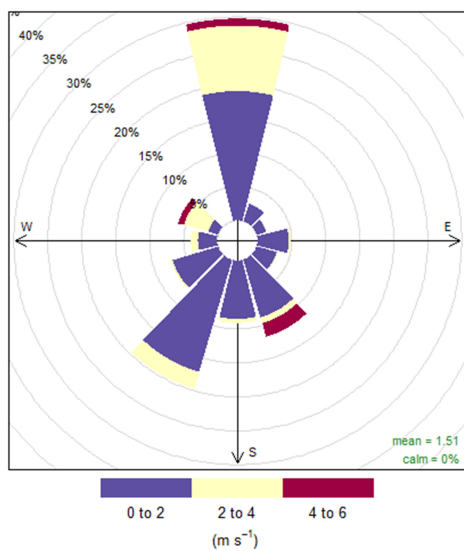
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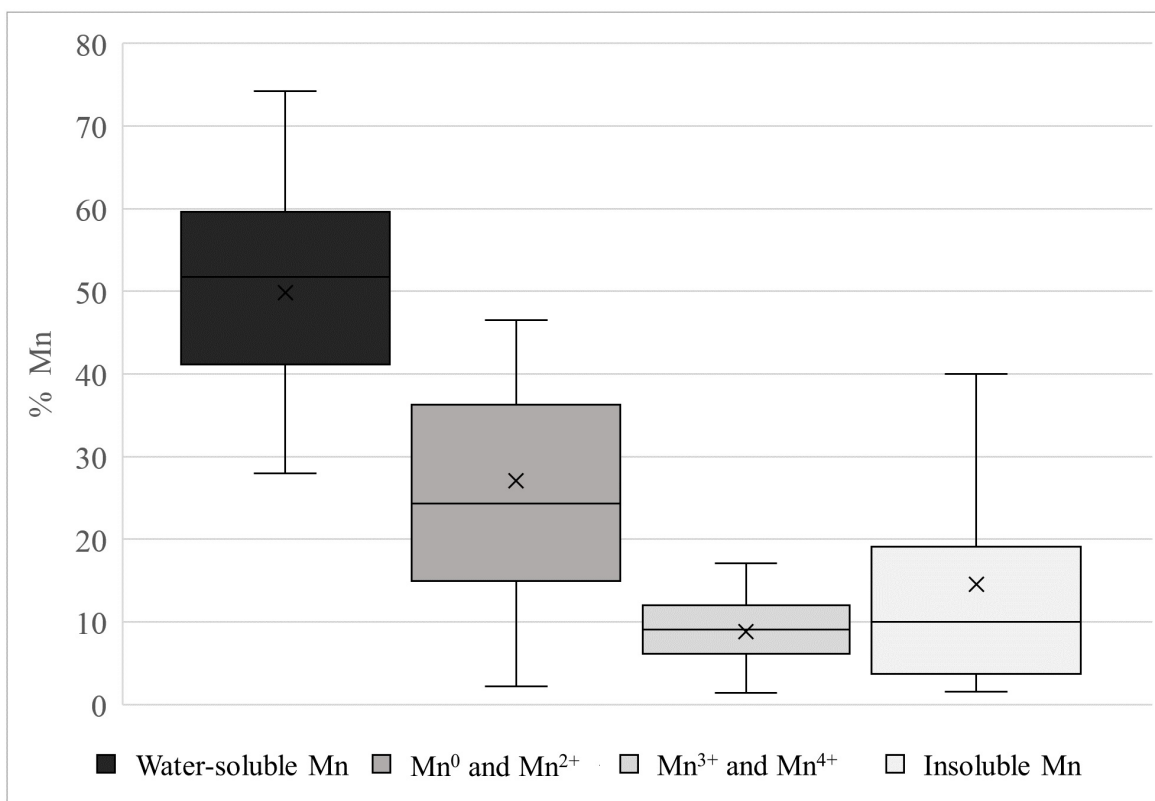
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