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Contact CEH NORA team at
noraceh@ceh.ac.uk

1 **Changes in soil dissolved organic carbon affect reconstructed history and projected**
2 **future trends in surface water acidification**

3

4 Jakub Hruška^{1,2,*}, Pavel Krám^{1,2}, Filip Moldan^{3,2}, Filip Oulehle^{1,2}, Christopher D. Evans⁴,
5 Richard F. Wright⁵, Jiří Kopáček⁶ and Bernard J. Cosby^{7,4}

6

7 ¹*Czech Geological Survey, Klárov 3, 11821 Prague 1, Czech Republic*

8 ²*Global Change Research Center, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Bělidla 4a,*
9 *603 00 Brno, Czech Republic*

10 ³*IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, Box 53021, 400 14 Gothenburg, Sweden*

11 ⁴*Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Deiniol Road, Bangor LL57 2UW, UK*

12 ⁵*Norwegian Institute for Water Research, Gaustadalleen 21, NO-0349 Oslo, Norway*

13 ⁶*Biological Centre, Hydrobiological Institute, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic,*
14 *Na sádkách 7, 370 05 České Budějovice, Czech Republic*

15 ⁷*Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia, P.O. Box 400123,*
16 *Charlottesville, VA 22904-4123, USA*

17 *corresponding author e-mail: jakub.hruska@geology.cz tel: +420 728452967 fax: +420
18 251818748

19 ABSTRACT

20

21 Pre-industrial (1850's) and future (2060) streamwater chemistry of an anthropogenically
22 acidified small catchment was estimated using the MAGIC model for three different scenarios
23 for dissolved organic carbon (DOC) concentrations and sources. The highest modeled pH =
24 5.7 for 1850's as well as for 2060 (pH = 4.4) was simulated given the assumption that
25 streamwater DOC concentration was constant at the 1993 level. A scenario accounting for an
26 increase of DOC as an inverse function of ionic strength (IS) of soilwater and streamwater
27 resulted in much lower pre-industrial (pH=4.9) and future recovery to (pH=4.1) if the stream
28 riparian zone was assumed to be the only DOC source. If upland soilwater (where significant
29 DOC increase was observed at -5 cm and -15 cm) was also included, DOC was partly
30 neutralized within the soil and higher pre-industrial pH=5.3 and future pH = 4.2 were
31 estimated. The observed DOC stream flux was 2 – 4 times higher than the potential carbon
32 production of the riparian zone, implying that this is unlikely to be the sole DOC source.
33 Modeling based on the assumption that stream DOC changes are solely attributable to
34 changes in the riparian zone appears likely to underestimate pre-industrial pH.

35

36 KEYWORDS

37

38 Acidification, surface waters, soils, dissolved organic carbon, MAGIC model, pre-
39 industrial water chemistry

40

41

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the last two decades, concentrations of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) have shown widespread increases in surface waters in several regions in Europe (Pärn and Mander 2012; Hruška et al. 2009; Monteith et al. 2007) and North America (SanClements et al. 2012). The increases in DOC have been ascribed primarily to decreased acid deposition (Hruška et al. 2009; Monteith et al. 2007; Evans et al. 2005), and the mechanism appears to be increased solubility of DOC due to decreased ionic strength of soil solution. Concentrations of DOC in acidified surface waters were thus probably higher in pre-industrial times relative to present-day levels and may increase further in the future if acid deposition continues to decline.

DOC decreases soil solution and surface water pH, increases concentrations of base cations and thus acid neutralizing capacity (ANC). Over the long term, soil base saturation is also affected. These parameters influence the health and vitality of aquatic and terrestrial organisms. The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60) mandates achievement of good ecological status of all water bodies, including with respect to acidification. Assessment of good ecological status requires setting of the unpolluted reference condition to which the present-day state is to be compared. The question of historical DOC concentrations is therefore important for quantifying present-day acidification and determining potential future recovery of surface waters.

Due to the paucity of historical data, estimates of pre-acidification chemical and biological status usually come from modeling applications. This is also the case for DOC. Modeling DOC concentrations is predicated upon understanding the factors driving the observed changes. Determination of the origin of DOC in surface waters is key. Erlandsson et al. (2011) and Löfgren and Zetterberg (2011) have argued on the basis of data from Sweden that riparian zone processes account for the increased DOC in surface waters. Alternatively, increased concentrations of DOC in organic layers across the entire catchment could cause the observed increases in DOC in surface waters. The cause of the observed increases in surface water DOC concentrations affects the calibration and application of models to reconstruct past and project future surface water chemistry.

Here we use the long-term observed soil, soil solution and streamwater chemistry data from the Lysina catchment, Czech Republic, to develop empirical relationships between DOC and ionic strength in soil- and streamwater. We then use the process-oriented acidification model MAGIC (Cosby et al. 2001; Cosby et al. 1985) to evaluate the potential effect on soil- and streamwater acidification on the alternative possible sources of the increased DOC -

76 riparian versus organic layers. Lysina is a well-documented catchment in the formerly heavily
77 polluted “Black Triangle” region in Central Europe (Oulehle et al. 2008). The streamwater
78 shows chemical recovery from acidification and concurrent increases of soil- and streamwater
79 DOC since 1990’s as a result of declining atmospheric deposition in the region (e.g. Hruška et
80 al. 2009). Acidification of freshwaters is addressed by both the UN-ECE Convention on
81 Long-range Transboundary Air Pollutants (LRTAP) and the European Union’s Water
82 Framework Directive (WFD). Both of these international environmental policies strive to
83 achieve good ecological quality in European freshwaters. Both are underpinned by scientific
84 assessments of present-day acidification status relative to past reference conditions and to
85 possibilities of achieving recovery from acidification in the future. For example, for surface
86 waters in Sweden a contemporary pH<0.4 units below the 1860 reference pH is regarded as
87 the threshold value for good ecological status according to the WFD with respect to
88 acidification (Fölster et al. 2007, SEPA 2010). Realistic estimates of effect of DOC on
89 historical pH are therefore essential. Thus reconstruction of the past and prognosis for the
90 future requires application of models such as MAGIC.

91

92

93 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

94

95 The Lysina catchment (Table 1) is located in the Slavkov Forest, a mountainous region in
96 the western Czech Republic (Figure 1). Lysina is an acid-sensitive site underlain by base-poor
97 bedrock and soil with even-aged Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) plantations. Local soil is
98 classified as a Folic Albic Skeletic Podzol with a sandy loam structure and a depth of about
99 120 cm. Organic layer thickness varied typically between 4-7 cm. Soil pH_w increases with
100 depth from 3.4. to 4.2 (Banwart et al. 2012). Lysina is part of several catchment monitoring
101 networks, e.g. in the Czech GEOMON (Oulehle et al. 2008), the international SoilTrEC
102 Critical Zone Observatories (Banwart et al. 2012), and the International Cooperative
103 Programmes on Waters and Integrated Monitoring (ICP Waters and ICP IM) (Holmberg et al.
104 2013).

105

106 3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

107

108 3.1. Deposition, soil- and streamwater sampling

109

110 Bulk precipitation (since 1990) and throughfall (since 1991) were collected monthly.
111 Soilwater samples were collected monthly since 1992 by means of zero-tension lysimeters at
112 5 (beneath O horizon, two lysimeters) and 15 cm (below E horizon, two lysimeters) depth,
113 and by tension lysimeters at 80 cm (lower B horizon, two lysimeters) depth. The lysimeters
114 are located at the hillslope representing the most common soil type (skeletic podzol) and
115 forest stand age (40-50 years old). Streamwater samples for chemical analysis were collected
116 monthly in 1989 and weekly since 1990. Streamwater samples were also collected irregularly
117 during high flow events (storms and intensive snowmelt). Streamflow from the catchment
118 was monitored continuously since 1989 using a V-notch weir and a mechanical water level
119 recorder. All annual mean concentrations for streamwater are discharge-weighted and are
120 based on a November – October water year. Annual arithmetic means based on water year
121 were used for soilwater. Oulehle et al. (2008) provide additional details on catchment
122 chemistry.

123

124 **3.2. Chemical analyses**

125

126 Concentrations of Cl^- , SO_4^{2-} , and NO_3^- in water samples were determined by ion-exchange
127 HPLC, F^- by ion-selective electrode after TISAB buffer addition, and concentrations of Ca^{2+} ,
128 Mg^{2+} , Na^+ , K^+ , and Al by atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS) in unfiltered samples
129 (Oulehle et al. 2008). Solution pH was determined using a combination glass electrode. DOC
130 (filtered 0.45 μm) was determined using platinum-catalyzed, high-temperature oxidation
131 using the non-purgeable organic carbon method (Hruška et al. 2009).

132

133 **3.3. Ionic strength (IS)**

134

135 Ionic strength was calculated from the chemistry of inorganic constituents (mol L^{-1}):

136

$$137 \quad \text{IS} = 1/2 \sum_{i=1}^n c_i Z_i^2 \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

138

139 where c is the concentration and Z is the ionic charge of ion i . The IS was calculated from
140 the measured concentrations of major cations and anions: Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Na^+ , K^+ , NH_4^+ , Al^{n+} ,
141 H^+ , SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^- , Cl^- and F^- . The inorganic Al fraction was determined by the Al speciation
142 method of Driscoll et al. (1984) modified for high Al concentrations (Hruška et al. 1994). The

143 concentrations of inorganic Al species (mostly Al-F and Al-OH complexes) were calculated
144 using the chemical equilibrium model ALCHEMI (Schecher and Driscoll 1987). Thus the
145 effect of DOC and F on Al charge was included in IS calculation.

146

147 **3.4. Acid neutralizing capacity (ANC)**

148

149 ANC was calculated on an equivalent basis as the difference between base cations and
150 strong acid anions ($\mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$):

151

$$152 \quad \text{ANC} = (\text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+) - (\text{Cl}^- + \text{SO}_4^{2-} + \text{NO}_3^-) \quad (\text{Eq.2})$$

153

154 Although F⁻ is also a strong acid anion, it was not used in the calculation of ANC, as
155 concentrations are low and assumed not to change over time; these assumptions are usual in
156 MAGIC model applications (e.g. Cosby et al. 1985, 2001).

157

158 **3.5. The MAGIC model**

159

160 **3.5.1. Model description**

161

162 MAGIC (Model of Acidification of Groundwater in Catchments) is a lumped-parameter
163 model of intermediate complexity, developed to predict the long-term effects of acidic
164 deposition on soil and surface water chemistry (Cosby et al. 2001; Cosby et al. 1985). The
165 model simulates soil and surface water chemistry in response to changes in drivers such as
166 deposition of S and N, silvicultural practices, and climate. MAGIC calculates for each time
167 step (annual time steps were used for this study) the concentrations of major ions under the
168 assumption of simultaneous reactions involving SO_4^{2-} adsorption, cation exchange,
169 dissolution-precipitation-speciation of aluminum and dissolution-speciation of inorganic and
170 organic carbon compounds. MAGIC accounts for the mass balance of major ions in the soil
171 by accounting for the fluxes from atmospheric inputs, chemical weathering, net uptake in
172 biomass and loss to runoff. Data inputs required for calibration of MAGIC comprise
173 catchment characteristics, soil chemical and physical characteristics, input and output fluxes
174 for water, concentrations of major ions, and net uptake of base cations and N by vegetation.

175

176 3.5.2. MAGIC calibration

177

178 Measured data for catchment characteristics, soil, deposition and streamwater volume and
179 chemistry were used to calibrate MAGIC. The fixed parameters (constant values that must be
180 specified) were measured or estimated (such as soil depth and cation exchange capacity)
181 (Table 2) or obtained by optimization as part of the calibration procedure (such as cation
182 exchange coefficients and base cation weathering rates) (Table 3). Cosby et al. (2001) give
183 definitions and details. MAGIC was calibrated to the average streamwater and soilwater
184 chemistry for the period 1990 – 1991. The calibration proceeded by sequential steps. The first
185 steps involved calibration of the strong acid anions; Cl^- , SO_4^{2-} and NO_3^- were calibrated by
186 adjusting the deposition inputs and/or ecosystem uptake as described by Wright and Cosby
187 (2003). This procedure resulted in the modeled sum of strong acid anions (SAA) in water
188 equal to that observed. The next steps involved calibration of the base cations Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} ,
189 Na^+ , and K^+ . Here the model was run from an assumed steady-state condition in year 1850 to
190 year 2010. A trial and error process was used to adjust the weathering rates of Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} ,
191 Na^+ , and K^+ and initial soil exchange pools of these four cations until modelled concentrations
192 of base cations in the streamwater, soilwater and modelled pools of base cations in the soil
193 matched the observed for the calibration period 1990-2010. This step calculated the soil-
194 soilwater selectivity coefficients for base cations and Al exchange and the weathering rates
195 for the four base cations (Table 2). At this point the modelled sum of base cations (SBC)
196 equalled the observed for the calibration period, and thus also the modelled acid neutralising
197 capacity (ANC) equalled the observed ANC (ANC was defined as $\text{SBC} - \text{SAA}$, Eq. 2). The
198 final step entailed calibration of the weak acids (DOC) such that the simulated concentrations
199 of H^+ , Al^{III} and organic anions (A^-) matched observations. This was achieved by adjusting the
200 dissociation constants for organic acids, aluminum hydroxide, fluoride, and sulfate species,
201 and organic aluminum complexes. We used a tri-protic model for organic acids with
202 dissociation constants given by Hruška et al. (2003, Table 2). Relationships between DOC
203 and IS in soilwater and streamwater were calculated using a power regression model for the
204 period 1993-2010 (streamwater: $\text{DOC} = 749.2 \cdot \text{IS}^{-0.5540}$ $p < 0.01$, soilwater – 5cm: $\text{DOC} =$
205 $494068 \cdot \text{IS}^{-1.3504}$, $p < 0.01$, soilwater -15 cm: $\text{DOC} = 41974 \cdot \text{IS}^{-1.0049}$, $p < 0.01$) Long-term DOC
206 concentrations were calculated using estimates of IS from the inorganic chemistry simulated
207 by the MAGIC model for the period 1850-2060.

208 In a study based on H₂¹⁸O measurements in precipitation, soilwater and runoff, Buzek et
209 al. (1995) calculated that on an annual basis streamwater at Lysina consists of about 5% direct
210 overland flow and 95% leachate from soil. Of the latter, 40% drains from the upper mineral
211 soil layer (-15 cm). The measured increase of DOC concentration in this layer was 192%
212 between 1994 and 2010 (Figure 2). As there is no evidence of changes in DOC concentration
213 in deep mineral soil (-80 cm), we assumed this to be constant and very low (measured data
214 from 1993-4 and 2012 between 2.3-3.4 mg L⁻¹). Thus the observed 192% increase of DOC
215 flux in upper mineral soil was assumed to lead to a 36% increase in concentration of DOC in
216 leachate from soil entering the stream from 1993-2010.

217

218 **3.6. Scenarios for DOC in soil and streamwater**

219

220 Three scenarios were modeled for the period 1850-2060 using different sets of assumptions
221 concerning soil and streamwater DOC concentrations:

222

223 A. Constant stream and soilwater DOC concentration as measured in 1993 (stable
224 DOC scenario)

225 B. Changing DOC over time inversely to IS only in stream (Figure 4) and not in
226 soilwater for the catchment as a whole (riparian DOC scenario)

227 C. Changing DOC over time inversely to IS in soilwater (Figure 3) throughout the
228 catchment as well as in streamwater (Figure 4, soil DOC scenario)

229

230 The MAGIC model was calibrated first for stable DOC in the stream using scenario A and
231 then recalibrated to fit observed streamwater chemistry using changes of DOC parameters
232 (scenarios B and C).

233 For calibration and recalibration the measured or estimated parameters used were always
234 identical for all three scenarios. The optimized parameters (cation exchange coefficients and
235 base cation weathering rates) were changed to fit measured soil and stream chemistry data.
236 Scenario B represents riparian source of DOC solely, with no connection with upland soils
237 within the catchment. Thus optimized parameters connected to soil properties (all of them in
238 Table 3) did not differ between scenarios A and B. Only acid-base characteristics connected
239 with DOC (e.g. pH at Figure 5) has changed.

240

241 **4. RESULTS**

242

243 **4.1. Observed chemical trends**

244

245 The Lysina catchment was strongly acidified by atmospheric deposition during the second
246 half of the 20th century (Hruška and Krám 2003; Krám et al. 1995; Krám et al. 2012); sulfur
247 (S) and nitrogen (N) deposition (as estimated by throughfall fluxes) peaked in the late 1980's.
248 Deposition of S then declined from 30-34 kg ha⁻¹ to 5-7 kg ha⁻¹ in 2008-2010. (Figure 6)
249 Inorganic N deposition decreased from 12-14 kg ha⁻¹ to 7-10 kg ha⁻¹ over the same period. In
250 the stream, recovery was manifest mainly by a major decrease in sulfate concentrations from
251 568 µeq L⁻¹ in 1990 to 116 µeq L⁻¹ in 2010. This 80% decline relative to 1990 mirrors the 77-
252 85% decline in atmospheric S deposition. The lower concentrations of strong acid anions
253 were balanced by decreasing concentrations of sum of base cations (SBC = Ca²⁺ + Mg²⁺ + Na⁺
254 + K⁺) from 434 µeq L⁻¹ in 1990 to 144-174 µeq L⁻¹ in 2008-2010, dissolved aluminum (from
255 56 µmol L⁻¹ to 28-29 µmol L⁻¹), and to a lesser extent H⁺ (from 126 µeq L⁻¹ to 80 µeq L⁻¹).
256 Streamwater pH increased from 3.9 in the early 1990's to 4.1 in 2010. Chemical recovery at
257 Lysina is described in detail by Hruška and Krám (2003) and Krám et al. (2012) and is typical
258 for recovery from acidification of poorly-buffered catchments (e.g. Moldan et al. 2013). More
259 detailed streamwater chemistry is available (Online Resource 1).

260 During the recovery the mean annual DOC concentrations increased significantly in
261 streamwater as well as in soilwater (p<0.001, Figure 2). There are large year-to-year
262 variations due to variations in precipitation amount with higher DOC concentrations in wet
263 years (see Online Resource 2). The annual mean streamwater DOC concentration increased
264 from 15.6-16.9 mg L⁻¹ (1993-1994) to 21.8-24.5 mg L⁻¹ in 2010-2011, an average annual
265 increase of 0.6 mg L⁻¹ year⁻¹ (p<0.001). Even stronger DOC trends were observed for water
266 draining the upper soil horizons (Figure 2). Mean annual DOC increased from 41-42 mg L⁻¹
267 in 1993-1994 to 67-74 mg L⁻¹ in 2010-2011 at 5 cm depth beneath the O horizon, an annual
268 increase of 2.7 mg L⁻¹ year⁻¹ (p<0.001). At 15 cm depth below the E horizon DOC
269 concentrations increased from 31-34 mg L⁻¹ to 68-73 mg L⁻¹, an annual increase of 1.9 mg L⁻¹
270 year⁻¹ (p<0.005). Hruška et al. (2009) showed that change in ionic strength (IS) is the best
271 predictor of observed changes in DOC at this site.

272

273 **4.2. Scenarios for DOC in soil and streamwater**

274

275 The resultant optimized parameters for the soil DOC scenario C include higher weathering
276 rates for Ca, Mg, Na and K compared to the constant DOC scenario A, but with lower initial
277 (year 1850) Ca and Mg % saturation of the soil cation exchange complex (Table 3).

278 The simulated streamwater DOC concentrations agreed fairly well with the observed for the
279 period 1993-2010 (Figure 4). The higher observed versus modeled DOC concentrations in
280 2002 and 2007 may be due to weather conditions during this time. The extremely wet year
281 2002 (annual runoff 747 mm was highest recorded since 1989) and the high number of
282 summer storms in 2007 resulted in positive residuals from the DOC-IS relationship.

283 All modeled scenarios satisfactorily reproduced measured mean annual chemistry for the
284 period 1990-2010 (Figure 5). The most striking changes in DOC - sharp decrease between
285 1950's - 1980's and increase between 1990's and 2010's - was caused mainly by changes in
286 S deposition in the region (Figure 6). Historical estimate of S deposition was derived from
287 Kopáček and Veselý (2005) for the period 1860-1990. The leveling of DOC concentrations
288 (Figure 3 and 4) for the future corresponds with model predictions of future S deposition in
289 Europe where only slight decreases are expected from 2010 to 2030 under the scenario of full
290 implementation of current legislation (CLE) (Schöpp et al. 2003).

291

292 **4.3. Streamwater acidity**

293

294 The three DOC scenarios gave different simulated values for pre-industrial (1850)
295 streamwater acidification parameters (Figure 5). Under the constant DOC scenario A pre-
296 industrial streamwater pH was simulated to be 5.7 (Figure 5) and future pH (to 2060) was
297 estimated to be 4.4. Under the riparian only scenario B pre-industrial streamwater pH was
298 simulated to be 4.9 and future pH only 4.1. Under the scenario with DOC changes in both soil
299 and streamwater (scenario C) a pre-industrial streamwater pH of 5.3 and a future pH of 4.2
300 was simulated.

301

302 **4.4. Base cations and soil base saturation.**

303

304 The stable DOC scenario A and riparian DOC scenario B gave estimated pre-industrial
305 base cation concentrations of about 185 $\mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$ and a future prediction of about 160 $\mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$
306 after 2020 (Figure 5). When changes in soilwater DOC were taken into account (scenario C),

307 historical estimated base cation concentrations increased to 220 $\mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$, and the future
308 prediction was 185 $\mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$. Historical soil base saturation (Figure 5) was estimated to be
309 27.5% and future prediction of 5.5% for both A and B scenarios after 2020. Inclusion of
310 soilwater DOC dynamics resulted in pre-industrial base saturation of 23.5% and future
311 prediction of 7.0%.

312

313 **4.5. Acid neutralizing capacity (ANC)**

314

315 ANC was modeled at 130 $\mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$ for the pre-industrial period for both A and B scenarios,
316 decreased significantly during period of high acidic deposition (minimum $-235 \mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$ in
317 1986) and was predicted to increase to 15-25 $\mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$ after 2020 (Figure 5). A slightly higher
318 ANC was estimated for scenario C: 165 $\mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$ for 1850, with substantially greater predicted
319 recovery to 40-50 $\mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$ after the year 2020.

320

321 **5. DISCUSSION**

322

323 **5.1. DOC trends.**

324

325 The increases in concentrations of DOC in streamwater as well as soilwater at Lysina
326 (Figure 2) are among the largest reported from acid-impacted sites in the Northern
327 Hemisphere. The widespread increases in surface water DOC concentrations reported from
328 many regions are widely believed to be due to decreasing acid deposition and associated
329 decreased acidity of soilwater and streamwater (Monteith et al. 2007; Clark et al. 2011;
330 SanClements et al. 2012). Although a number of other climatic and land-use related factors
331 have also been invoked as possible explanations for some or all of the observed changes (Pärn
332 and Mander 2012; Eimers et al. 2008; Sarkkola et al. 2009; Zhang et al. 2010), recent data
333 from field manipulation experiments provide strong support for deposition change as a major
334 driver (Evans et al. 2008; Evans et al. 2012; Evans et al. 2005; Ekström et al. 2011; Moldan et
335 al. 2012; Kopáček et al. 2009; Bragazza et al. 2006). It is hard to disentangle IS and acidity
336 control on DOC mobility. It is not trivial (even not possible) to use acidity as driving force for
337 estimating historical DOC concentration. DOC, as weak acid acid-base system, contributes
338 significantly to stream and soilwater acidity, and the depletion of soil cations-exchange
339 complex and Al mobilization by high deposition of strong acids has changed soil and water
340 acidity (e.g Hruška et al. 2009; Evans et al. 2005). Present soil and streamwater pH is

341 significantly lower compared to similar deposition loads in the beginning of the 20th century.
342 The effect of IS on DOC coagulation is another potentially important mechanism affecting
343 DOC concentrations. Decreasing IS as a result of decreasing deposition should lead to lower
344 concentrations of divalent ions in soils and streams (Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , SO_4^{2-}) and thus a lower IS
345 (eq. 1). Several studies have shown explicitly that increasing IS reduces DOC concentrations
346 (e.g. Hruška et al.2009). Regional studies, and intensive evaluation of catchment monitoring
347 attributed observed increases in DOC concentrations to reduced atmospheric deposition, but
348 they do not distinguish between the effects of pH and Al, nor the effects of ionic strength
349 alone (Monteith et al. 2009). At Lysina the majority of the IS decrease was caused by
350 declining SO_4^{2-} deposition and consequently a decline of SO_4^{2-} and base cation
351 concentrations in soilwater and streamwater (see Online Resource 1). For both SO_4^{2-} and
352 base cations, long-term trends are possible to model with MAGIC independently of acid-base
353 characteristics. Thus IS provides a reasonable proxy for DOC. Nevertheless, it is not yet
354 completely resolved whether the key mechanism responsible for observed DOC responses to
355 changing deposition is the decrease of acidity itself, resulting in lower H^+ and dissolved Al
356 (Evans et al. 2012; Clark et al. 2011), or the decrease in ionic strength (e.g. (Hruška et al.
357 2009; Moldan et al. 2012). This uncertainty arises in part from the fact that both possible
358 mechanisms respond simultaneously to changes in ambient deposition, making their relative
359 importance difficult to disentangle from monitoring data. Data from experiments where
360 alkaline treatments have been applied (reducing acidity but increasing IS), indicate a rise in
361 DOC, providing some support for the role of acidity as the dominant control on DOC mobility
362 (Ekström et al. 2011). However, evidence of DOC increases from base-rich catchments
363 (where IS responds more strongly than pH to deposition changes) suggests an important role
364 for ionic strength (Hruška et al. 2009). In practice, since pH and IS are both strongly linked to
365 S deposition, assumptions made about their relative importance would not fundamentally alter
366 the trajectory of modeled DOC change.

367

368 **5.2. Reconstruction of historical DOC.**

369

370 Water chemistry, represented by IS or SO_4^{2-} concentrations, has been used by several
371 authors as a proxy for long-term DOC changes. Kopáček et al. (2009) used SO_4^{2-}
372 concentrations to estimate the long-term change of DOC at Plešné Lake in the Bohemian
373 Forest, Czech Republic. Their results indicated that decreases in DOC concentrations of 70-
374 80% during acidification in comparison to pre-industrial levels. Evans et al. (2005) used the

375 combination of SO_4^{2-} deposition, rainfall and summer temperature to estimate temporal DOC
376 changes for an upland stream in UK. The simulated decline in DOC concentrations during
377 acidification was ca. 70% relative to the pre-industrial concentrations. Based on experimental
378 evidence of increased DOC leaching in response to nitrogen addition (Bragazza et al. 2006),
379 and theoretical links between nitrogen availability, net primary productivity and DOC
380 production in low-nutrient systems, Tipping et al. (2012) used the N14C model to simulate a
381 long-term increase in DOC leaching since the pre-industrial period. As noted by the authors,
382 the model omits acidity controls on carbon cycling, and further work is needed to establish the
383 importance of N deposition as a driver of increased DOC leaching. A recent extension of
384 N14C to incorporate acidity effects on DOC mobility (Rowe et al., in review) suggests that
385 the acidity effect dominates historical and recent DOC variations, whilst any nitrogen effect
386 might become more evident in the future, as S deposition stabilizes at low levels.
387 Paleolimnological reconstructions of DOC by near infrared spectroscopy from lake sediments
388 in Sweden (Cunningham et al. 2011) also support a dominant role of acidification on
389 historical DOC variations, suggesting that pre-industrial lake water DOC concentrations were
390 two times higher compared to present. Thus our estimate of the reduction in stream DOC by
391 58% with respect to pre-industrial concentrations during the 1980s falls within the range of
392 most published data. Positive residuals in observed versus modeled DOC in recent wet years,
393 as well as negative residuals during dry years, also highlight the potential sensitivity of DOC
394 leaching to inter-annual hydrological variation (see also Erlandsson et al. (2008); any future
395 climatic shift towards wetter or drier conditions at this site could, therefore, moderate the
396 long-term trajectory of DOC change shown in Figures 3-4.

397

398 **5.3. DOC origin**

399

400 Soils, in particular shallow organic soils, are thought to be the main source of DOC in most
401 headwater catchments (Cunningham et al. 2011). Recent studies from Sweden (Erlandsson et
402 al. 2011; Löfgren et al. 2010), however, suggested only a minor contribution of soilwater
403 DOC to streamwater concentrations. Instead, they argue that most of the DOC derives from
404 the riparian zone around streams. This hypothesis, however, is not supported by available
405 long-term soil solution data. The majority of reported DOC trends in the organic layers in
406 areas recovering from acidification suggest increases similar in magnitude to those observed
407 in surface waters (Hruška et al. 2009; Borken et al. 2011; Stutter et al. 2011). For mineral soil
408 horizons the picture is more mixed, with increases at some sites (Stutter et al. 2011; Hruška et

409 al. 2009), but decreases at others (Löfgren and Zetterberg 2011; Stutter et al. 2011; Borken et
410 al. 2011).

411 There are limits to how much DOC a riparian zone could produce alone without
412 replenishment of DOC by leachate from upland soils. At Lysina, the total length of riparian
413 zone along the stream channel and associated artificial ditches is estimated to 2700 meters
414 (Figure 1). Along these channels the riparian zone is irregularly developed. We estimate the
415 area of the riparian zone (based on width between 0.25-1 m along the stream) to be between
416 1400 and 5500 m², comprising 0.5 to 2% of the total catchment area). *Sphagnum* species
417 which dominate those wet environments typically have an annual net primary productivity
418 (NPP) of carbon ranging between 200 and 400 g C m⁻² yr⁻¹ (Gunnarsson 2005). Thus 400 to
419 1700 kg C yr⁻¹ could be produced by the riparian zone each year. This amount of C, assuming
420 steady state conditions, is then available for heterotrophic respiration (with subsequent
421 partitioning between CO₂ and DOC). Annual average export of DOC (2007-2009) was 118
422 kg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹, thus total annual export from the whole catchment was 3221 kg C yr⁻¹, which is 2
423 – 4 times more than our estimate of total NPP of *Sphagnum* species along stream channels. It
424 is thus unlikely that the riparian zone is the sole source of DOC exported in streamwater.
425 Based on the ¹⁸O study (Buzek et al. 1995), consistent and coherent increases of shallow
426 mineral soilwater DOC concentration and streamwater DOC, and the insufficient spatial
427 extent of riparian wetlands to provide the full observed DOC flux, we believe that substantial
428 part of DOC in the stream is derived from upland forest soils by lateral transport through the
429 shallow mineral soil, which contributes around 40% to annual catchment runoff. The 36%
430 increase in soil DOC leachet entering the stream (derived from observed soilwater DOC
431 increases and ¹⁸O data) agrees very well with 37% observed increase of streamwater DOC
432 (Figure 2). This result suggests that there is no need to invoke additional sources or
433 biogeochemical processes within the riparian zone in order to explain observed DOC trends.

434

435 **5.4. Weak acid-base chemistry and base cation fluxes**

436

437 Organic acids are represented in MAGIC by a triprotic acid analogue (Hruška et al. 2003;
438 Driscoll et al. 1994). The total organic acid concentration is based on charge density and the
439 observed DOC in runoff. The charge density is calibrated such that the simulated and
440 observed weak acid anion concentrations agree. The higher soil solution concentration of
441 organic acids in scenario C resulted in more acidic soil conditions in the beginning of
442 simulation (1851) with subsequently more negative Al-base cations (Al-BC) selectivity

443 coefficients (Table 3). As a consequence, higher calibrated weathering rates of base cations
444 and slightly lower initial base saturation were required to fit the observed values (Table 2 and
445 3). From the conceptual point of view, as accommodated in the MAGIC model, it is clear that
446 changing soil solution organic acid concentration affects Al-BC selectivity coefficients, thus
447 affecting the calibrated weathering rates and consequently modeled concentrations of
448 streamwater base cations and soil base saturation (Figure 5). Adjusted BC fluxes to fit the
449 observed data in scenario C resulted in higher initial pH (pH of 5.3) when compared to
450 scenario B where only a DOC increase in streamwater was modeled (pH of 4.9). Soil
451 processes are sensitive to organic acid concentrations and omitting their long-term changes
452 could lead to unrealistic estimates of pre-acidification conditions (Evans et al. 2005).

453

454 **5.5. Comparison of stream-water chemistry among scenarios**

455

456 As illustrated by the example here from the Lysina catchment (Figure 5), an understanding
457 of the processes controlling DOC concentrations in soil and water is central to such modeling.
458 Based on documented time series from the last two decades, it seems clear that estimates
459 based on stable DOC from the 1990s (solid black lines in Figure 5) give unrealistically high
460 simulated pre-industrial pH (5.7) as well as future predicted pH increases. Scenarios based on
461 an IS-DOC relationship (Figure 3) give a better fit to observations, and result in higher
462 simulated pre-industrial DOC and lower pH (dotted black and dotted grey lines in Figure 5).
463 The scenario taking account of soilwater contributions to streamwater DOC resulted in a pre-
464 industrial estimate of pH=5.3. The estimate based on a riparian-only DOC contribution to the
465 stream resulted in a pre-industrial pH of only 4.9. We consider this later scenario also
466 unrealistic, because there is insufficient potential carbon supply from the riparian zone to
467 generate the observed DOC exports, and because observed DOC changes in streamwater
468 could be effectively reproduced by simple mixing of observed DOC leachate chemistry from
469 the upper soil with a fixed lower soilwater input, without the need to invoke additional
470 riparian processes. Thus, the most plausible scenario appears to be the change in soilwater
471 DOC in the organic soil horizon throughout the catchment. This may help to explain previous
472 observations that the MAGIC model tends to give a higher simulated pre-industrial pH
473 estimate than paleolimnological techniques (Battarbee et al. 2005). On the other hand, this
474 scenario slightly increased the estimated pre-industrial ANC as a result of higher weathering
475 rate of base cations (Table 3). Modeling pre-industrial pH based on the assumption that
476 stream DOC changes are solely attributable to changes in the riparian zone (Erlandsson et al.

477 2011) appears likely to result in a substantial under-estimate of pre-industrial pH, because this
478 assumption does not account for the increased loss of base cations from the soil. To arrive at
479 present-day concentrations of base cations, therefore, one must start with higher weathering
480 rates of base cations in the past, and thus higher pH in the past.

481 Finally, our study has some implications for catchment management. In relation to both
482 acid-base chemistry and DOC leaching, our results suggest that water quality is controlled by
483 processes operating at the whole-catchment scale, and by external (i.e. atmospheric
484 deposition) drivers. It is thus highly doubtful whether it would be possible to arrest recent
485 increases in surface water DOC (which are often viewed as detrimental, for example from a
486 water treatment perspective) through altered riparian zone management. While this conclusion
487 may not necessarily apply to other water quality issues such as eutrophication or organic
488 pollutants, we argue that, in general, a whole-catchment approach to water quality
489 management is likely to be more effective than a focus solely on riparian 'buffer zones'.

490

491 6. CONCLUSIONS

492

493 We show that changes in DOC concentrations in soilwater within the forest catchment can
494 significantly affect predictions of past and future streamwater chemistry. Taking into account
495 soilwater contributions to streamwater chemistry and modeled long-term changes in DOC
496 concentrations in response to changing deposition chemistry, the historical pH of streamwater
497 was estimated to be lower than if DOC had remained constant over time (pH=5.3 versus
498 pH=5.7). Incorporating variable DOC also resulted in lower estimates of historical soil base
499 saturation (23.5% versus 27.5%) and higher base cation weathering rates ($80.5 \text{ meq m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-2}$
500 versus $66.5 \text{ meq m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-2}$).

501 The hypothesis that riparian zone is the sole source of DOC in streamwater was rejected, as
502 there was insufficient potential carbon supply from the riparian zone. Observed DOC stream
503 flux was 2-4 times higher than the potential carbon production in riparian zone.

504

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506

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511

512 8. REFERENCES

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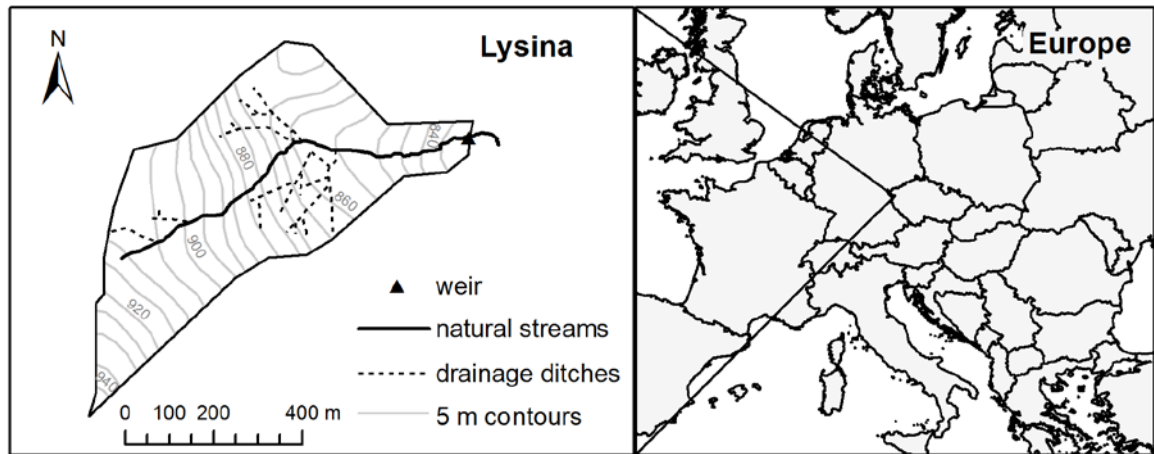
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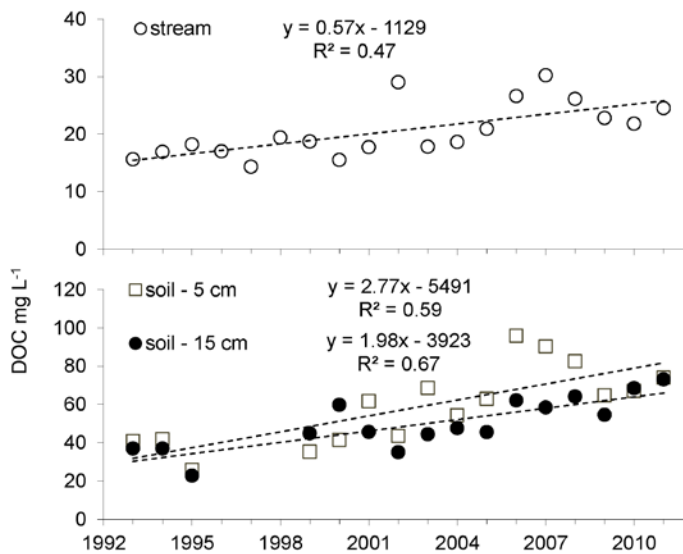
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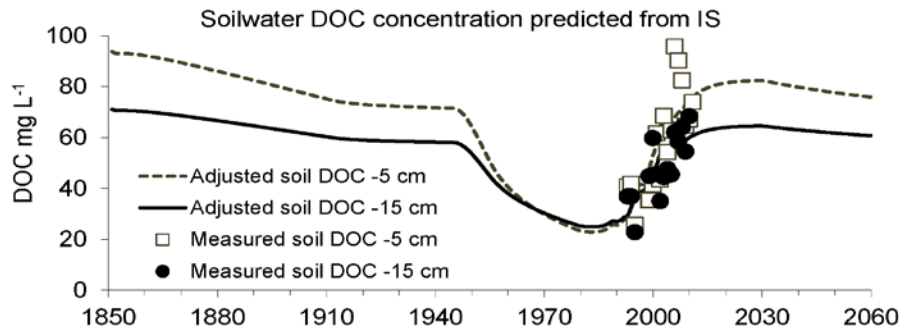


663
664 Figure 1. Map of Europe showing Lysina catchment with natural streams and drainage
665 ditches.

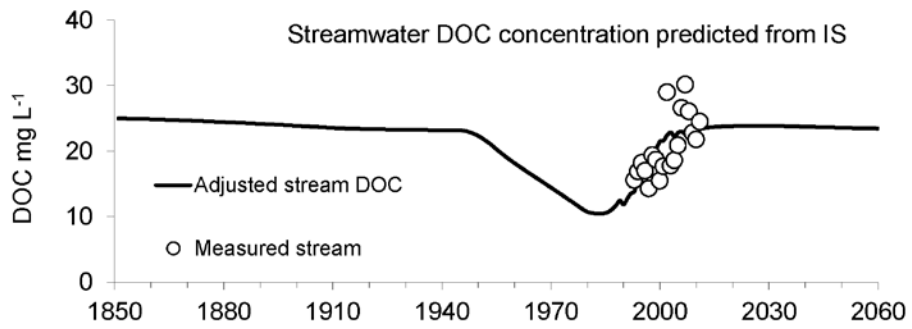


666
667 Figure 2. Trends in mean annual DOC is streamwater (open circles) and soilwater (squares:
668 -5 cm depth, black circles: -15 cm depth) for the period 1993-2011 at the Lysina catchment.

669
670



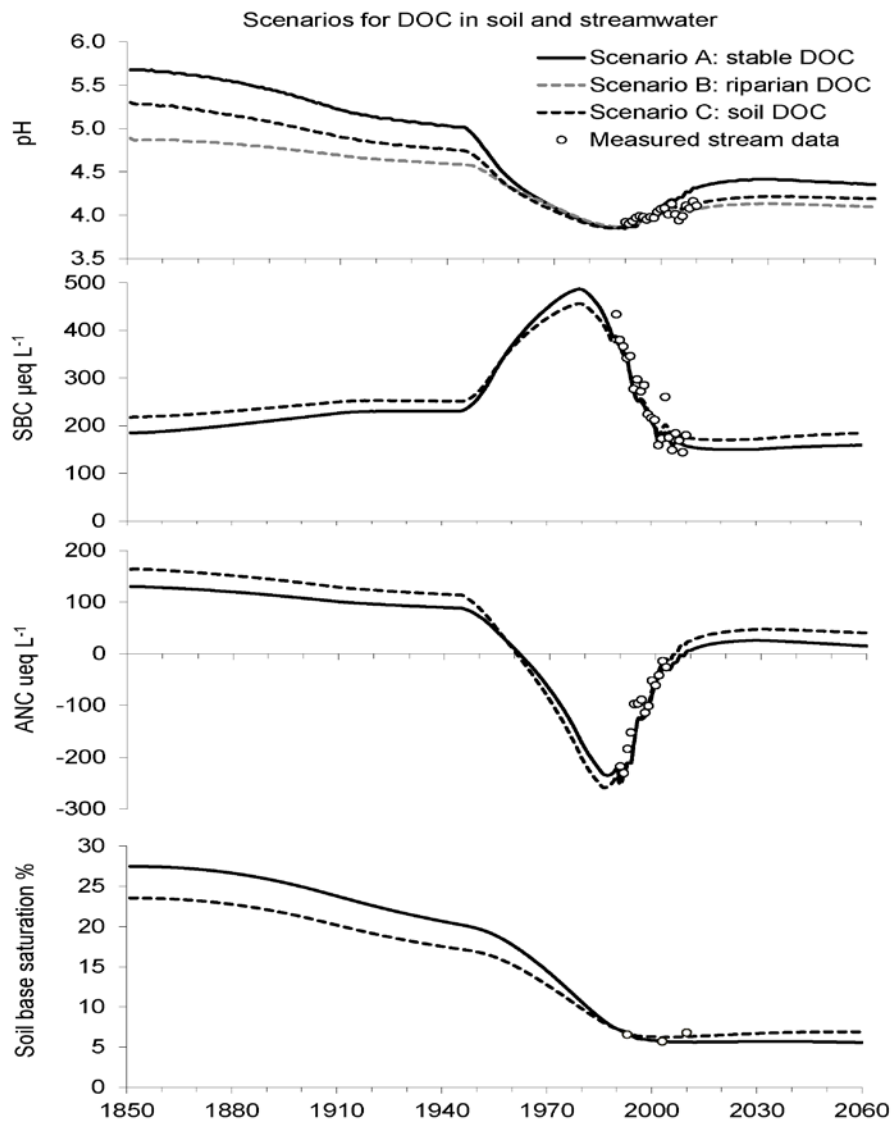
671
 672 Figure 3. Reconstructed and predicted trends of DOC in soilwater at -5 and -15 cm for the
 673 period 1851-2060. DOC was adjusted by IS derived from MAGIC calibration.



674

675 Figure 4. Reconstructed and predicted trends of DOC in streamwater for the period 1851-

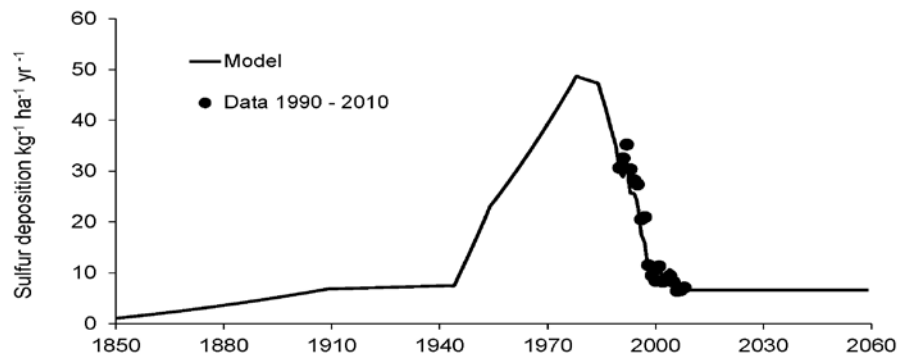
676 2060. DOC was adjusted by IS derived from MAGIC calibration.



678

679 Figure 5. Simulated and observed pH, concentrations of sum base cations (SBC) and ANC
 680 in streamwater and % base saturation in soil at Lysina between 1851-2060. The solid black
 681 line depicts the simulation with constant DOC concentrations as measured in 1993 (scenario
 682 A). The gray dotted line depicts the situation when all streamwater DOC was derived from
 683 riparian zone only (scenario B). The dotted black line shows the scenario with simultaneous
 684 increases of DOC in soilwater and streamwater (scenario C). Scenario B is not shown where it
 685 is identical with scenario A.

686



687

688

689 Figure 6. Deposition of S at Lysina over the period 1850 - 2050. The estimated historical
 690 trend between 1860-1990 is from Kopáček & Veselý (2005), and the future trends assume full
 691 implementation of the CLE scenario (solid line). Circles show the measured annual deposition
 692 (1991-2010).

693

694 Table captions:

695

696 Table 1. Characteristics of the Lysina catchment

Tab. 1.

Location	50°03'N, 12°40'E
Altitude (m)	829-949
Drainage area (km ²)	0.273
Mean slope (%)	11.5
Aspect	North-East
Annual average temperature (°C)	5.0
Dominant tree species	Norway spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>) (>99%)
Average age of spruce forest (yr)	50
Dominant soil type	Folic Albic Podzol (Skeletal), 45% of catchment
Bedrock	Leucogranite

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699

700

Tab. 2

	Units	Value
CATCHMENT		
Discharge, annual	m	0.432
Precipitation, annual	m	0.95
SOIL		
Bulk density (fraction < 2 mm)	kg.m ⁻³	530
CEC	meq.kg ⁻¹	59
Al(OH) ₃ solubility constant	log 10	7.7
SO ₄ adsorption half saturation	meq.m ⁻³	500
SO ₄ maximum adsorption cap.	meq.kg ⁻¹	3
pCO ₂	atm	2.2
Temperature	°C	5
Site density of DOC	mmol.m ⁻³	3.4
pK1 of organic acids	-log 10	2.5
pK2 of organic acids	-log 10	4.1
pK3 of organic acids	-log 10	6.7
STREAM		
Al(OH) ₃ solubility constant	log 10	7.1
pCO ₂	atm	1.3
Site density of DOC	mmol.m ⁻³	3.4
pK1 of organic acids	-log 10	2.5
pK2 of organic acids	-log 10	4.1
pK3 of organic acids	-log 10	6.7

701
702

703 Table 2. Selected fixed parameters used to calibrate MAGIC to Lysina.

704

Tab. 3

	Units	Scenario		
		stable DOC	riparian DOC	soil DOC
OPTIMIZED PARAMETERS				
Weathering Ca	meq.m ⁻²	29.6	29.6	40.0
Weathering Mg	meq.m ⁻²	11.5	11.5	13.0
Weathering Na	meq.m ⁻²	21.1	21.1	23.0
Weathering K	meq.m ⁻²	4.3	4.3	4.5
Weathering $\Sigma(\text{Ca}+\text{Mg}+\text{K}+\text{Na})$	meq.m ⁻²	66.5	66.5	80.5
Selectivity coefficient Al-Ca	log	0.75	0.75	0.81
Selectivity coefficient Al-Mg	log	1.16	1.16	0.81
Selectivity coefficient Al-K	log	-0.75	-0.75	-0.97
Selectivity coefficient Al-Na	log	-4.41	-4.41	-4.67
Ca initial condition	% of CEC	17.5	17.5	14.0
Mg initial condition	% of CEC	5.5	5.5	5.0
Na initial condition	% of CEC	1.2	1.2	1.2
K initial condition	% of CEC	3.3	3.3	3.3
Initial base saturation $\Sigma(\text{Ca}+\text{Mg}+\text{Na}+\text{K})$	% of CEC	27.5	27.5	23.5

706

707

708 Table 3. Parameters optimized in the three scenarios such that simulated and observed soil

709 and streamwater chemistry match for the reference year 1991.

710

711