

1 **Appearance of an enigmatic Pb source in South America around 2000 BP: anthropogenic**
2 **vs natural origin.**

3 George D. Kamenov^{1*}, Jaime Escobar^{2,3}, T. Elliott Arnold⁴, Andrés Pardo-Trujillo⁵, Gotzon
4 Gangoiti⁶, Natalia Hoyos⁷, Jason H. Curtis¹, Broxton W. Bird⁸, Maria Isabel Velez⁹, Felipe
5 Vallejo⁵, Raul Trejos-Tamayo⁵

6 ¹ Department of Geological Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA

7 ² Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Universidad del Norte. Km 5 Via Puerto Colombia.
8 Barranquilla, Colombia

9 ³ Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Balboa, Panama

10 ⁴ Department of Geology and Environmental Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA

11 ⁵ Instituto de Investigaciones en Estratigrafía-IIIES, Universidad de Caldas, Calle 65 N° 26 – 10. Manizales,
12 Colombia

13 ⁶ Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingeniería de Bilbao, Universidad del País Vasco-Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea,
14 Bilbao, Spain

15 ⁷ Department of History and Social Sciences, Universidad del Norte. Km 5 Via Puerto Colombia. Barranquilla,
16 Colombia

17 ⁸ Department of Earth Sciences, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN 46202, USA

18 ⁹ Department of Geology, University of Regina, Regina, S4S 0A2, Canada

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20 *Corresponding Author: kamenov@ufl.edu

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25 **Abstract**

26 Neotropical wetlands in the paramo (a unique alpine-tundra ecosystem) region of South
27 America have the potential to be natural archives for metal pollution by modern and past
28 populations. An organic-rich sediment core from the El Triunfo mire, located in the paramo
29 region, provides a record of natural and anthropogenic metal sources in the Northern Andes
30 during the last four millennia. The Triunfo record is complex, as the mire is located in the
31 Northern Volcanic Zone (NVZ) and receives direct input of volcanic material. Regardless of the
32 volcanic input, calculated metal enrichment factors normalized to Sc show metal enrichment in
33 the Northern Andes around 2000 years ago and again in recent industrial times. A number of
34 samples show a shift to lower Pb isotope ratios indicating the appearance of a new, enigmatic Pb
35 source around 2000 years ago. The topmost layer of the core shows the lowest Pb isotope ratios,
36 reflecting input of modern anthropogenic Pb. In contrast to Pb, Nd isotopes do not show
37 significant variations along the entire core, indicating mostly volcanic material input to the mire.
38 The decoupling between Nd and Pb isotopes indicates that the enigmatic Pb source must be
39 anthropogenic in origin.

40 Based on the dominant atmospheric currents in the region, the El Triunfo mire can
41 receive input from long-distance and local sources. Dispersion simulations validate the
42 possibility of pollutant particle transport from Europe to the northern hemisphere Neotropics. As
43 the first metal enrichment coincides with the Roman Empire times, the El Triunfo Pb isotopes
44 are compared to contemporary peat records from Europe. All records show similar decrease in
45 the Pb isotope ratios due to anthropogenic Pb input. Small Pb isotope differences between a
46 record from Spain and El Triunfo indicate that the enigmatic Pb that appeared around 2000 years
47 ago in the mire is unlikely to have originated from long-distance Roman Empire pollution.

48 Instead, a group of deposits, namely San Lucas, San Martin de Loba, and El Bagre, located in
49 north-central Colombia, show low Pb isotope ratios that can potentially explain the observed Pb
50 signal in the El Triunfo sediments. The deposits are located up wind, along the predominant
51 atmospheric currents in the region. Therefore, it is plausible that mining activities in the area of
52 San-Lucas, San-Martin, and/or El Bagre released Pb in the atmosphere that was transported and
53 deposited in the El Triunfo mire. These deposits are not associated with the known regions of
54 influence of any of the early pre-Hispanic cultures in Colombia and there is no evidence for
55 mining in this region around 2000 years ago. However, given that all other possibilities are
56 unlikely, the appearance of lower Pb isotope ratios in the mire suggests the onset of mining in the
57 region at least 400 years earlier than the available archaeological evidence at present. The El
58 Triunfo mire record can be used as indirect evidence for significant metal exploitation by early
59 pre-Hispanic cultures in the northern Andes as early as 2000 years ago.

60

61 **Introduction**

62 Over the past few millennia human activities have increasingly disrupted the natural
63 geochemical cycles of a number of metals (e.g., Nriagu, 1996). Modern and historical mining
64 and smelting of sulfide ores release trace metals such as Cu, Zn, Pb, and other metals with
65 similar geochemical behavior, in the near-surface environment. Natural archives such as peat
66 deposits, lake sediments, and ice cores can provide a historical record of metal pollution by
67 modern and past populations. Far-reaching anthropogenic Pb pollution during the 20th century
68 was first documented in ice cores in Greenland (Murozumi et al., 1969). Subsequently, historical
69 and modern Pb and other metals pollution was confirmed at sites across the world through
70 analysis of multiple natural archives, including ice cores (Hong et al. 1994; Uglietti et al. 2015;
71 Eicheler et al. 2017), lake sediments (Brannvall et al. 2001; Renberg et al. 2001, Cooke et al.
72 2009; Escobar et al. 2013), peat deposits (Shotyk et al. 1996; Kylander et al. 2005; Kamenov et
73 al. 2009; Martinez-Cortizas et al. 2013; Vleeschouwer et al. 2014), river sediments (Lima et al.
74 2005), coastal marsh deposits (Leblanc et al. 2000; Alfonso et al. 2001; Kemp et al. 2012), and
75 corals (Shen and Boyle, 1987). Regions in Europe (Brännvall et al. 2001; Renberg et al. 2001) and
76 North America (Kamenov et al. 2009; Kemp et al. 2012) have been so well studied that the
77 historical Pb pollution in sediments can be used as a geochronological tool.

78 Early South American inhabitants developed metallurgical techniques centuries prior to
79 the arrival of Europeans in the “New World” (e.g., Macfarlane and Lechtman, 2014). The
80 earliest direct evidence for Cu smelting in South America comes from Peruvian archaeological
81 artefacts dated to around 1000 BC (Lechtman, 1979). The atmospheric Cu pollution from these
82 early smelting activities is detectable in ice-core records from the Illimani glacier in Bolivia
83 (Eicheler et al. 2017). Additional evidence for anthropogenic metal contamination in South

84 America comes from several lake sediment sequences (Cooke et al. 2007, 2008, 2009), two
85 tropical ice-core studies (Uglietti et al. 2015, Eicheler et al. 2017), and a peat record from Tierra
86 del Fuego (Vleeschouwer et al. 2014). The ice core record indicates only Cu extraction from
87 around 1000 BC to around 0 AD, with the first significant Pb pollution due to silver metallurgy
88 detectable around 500 AD (Eicheler et al. 2017). This is in agreement with the lake records from
89 Peru and Bolivia, which also indicate the first significant anthropogenic Pb pollution in South
90 America occurred around 500 AD (Cook et al., 2008). However, metal abundances in a peat
91 record from Tierra del Fuego indicate that the anthropogenic metal extraction may have begun
92 much earlier, around 2000 BC in South America (Vleeschouwer et al. 2014).

93 The northern Andes host a unique alpine-tundra ecosystem called paramo. These high-
94 elevation paramo ecosystems are located mainly in the northwestern corner of South America
95 (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela) and also in Central America (Costa Rica). These
96 paramo ecosystems are high biodiversity regions that serve as fresh water sources for millions of
97 people (Giraldo-Giraldo et al. 2017). Recently cores from paramo wetlands have been explored
98 as archives for environmental and climate change through pollen and testate amoebae studies
99 (Giraldo-Giraldo et al. 2017; Liu et al. 2019). The paramo peatlands can also serve as important
100 archives for recent and past environmental metal pollution. However, as many paramo
101 ecosystems are located in regions of active volcanoes, they receive significant volcanic input,
102 which complicates the metal record. Regardless, it may be possible to unravel a Neotropical
103 metal record through time from a paramo wetland core, if the volcanic input can be separated
104 from the non-volcanic atmospheric input. In this work we investigate the history of metal
105 deposition, including Pb, in northern South America over the past 4,000 years using a ¹⁴C-dated
106 mire core from the central Colombian Andean Cordillera paramo ecosystem. The comprehensive

107 record of metal abundances and Pb and Nd isotopes in this Neotropical wetland deposit provides
108 a chronological record of natural vs anthropogenic controls on the metal deposition in the region.

109 **Methods**

110 The El Triunfo mire is part of the Northern Andean paramo ecoregion and is located in
111 the Central Colombian Andean Cordillera at 3600 m asl (4.98°N, 75.33°W), around 10
112 kilometers north of the active Nevado del Ruiz volcano (Fig. 1a,b). The mire lies in a depression
113 created by late Quaternary glacial activity (Herd, 1982, also see Giraldo-Giraldo et al. 2017 for
114 photograph of the area). The bedrock geology of the area is dominated by Neogene andesites,
115 pyroclastics, and glacial volcanic deposits (Fig. 1b). The mire is surrounded by hills composed of
116 Neogene andesites (Herd, 1982; Thouret et al. 1995). At present only one surface outcrop of the
117 local andesite bedrock is accessible in the mire's drainage basin. The Triunfo andesite sample
118 analyzed in this work was collected from this outcrop. The mire is fed hydrologically by direct
119 precipitation and runoff that drains through the volcanic deposits. The drainage basin is
120 characterized by paramo vegetation above 3800 m asl and by Andean forest below 3800 m asl.

121 A sediment core (TRIU 1) was collected from the El Triunfo mire in 2012 using a
122 stainless-steel Russian-style corer (Giraldo-Giraldo et al. 2017). The extracted core was
123 described in the field, wrapped in plastic film and packed in PVC pipes. The core was stored at
124 4°C at the Universidad de Caldas. A clean slicing and sub-sampling procedure using stainless
125 steel tools was applied to ensure minimal metal contamination and disturbance. The core is
126 composed of peat, organic-rich sediments, and volcanic ash, sometimes showing shallow (few
127 cm to 10 cm) bioturbation by plant roots and inter-bedded with lapilli (Cardona and Monroy,
128 2015; Giraldo-Giraldo et al. 2017). Seven volcanic ash layers, composed of ash and lapilli, were
129 identified in the core (Giraldo-Giraldo et al. 2017). The lapilli analyzed in this work were picked

130 with clean Teflon-coated tweezers from five volcanic ash layers in the interval between 270 cm
131 and 135 cm depth. Radiocarbon dates were run on bulk samples from 11 depths throughout the
132 sediment core. The age model was built using Bacon Software (Blaauw and Christen, 2011).

133 Twenty-five samples from the sediment core, lapilli from five ash layers, and one
134 andesite rock sample were selected for trace element and isotope analyses. All reagents used for
135 sample preparation were Optima-grade and sample preparation was performed in a Class 1000
136 Clean Lab equipped with Class 10 laminar flow hoods, at the Department of Geological
137 Sciences, University of Florida, following methods described in Kamenov et al. (2009). About 1
138 g of sediment was weighed in acid-cleaned ceramic crucibles and ashed at 550 °C for 5 hours to
139 determine organic matter content by weight loss on ignition (LOI, Table 1). No loss of elements
140 of interest occurred during ashing, as all elements reported in this work have boiling points
141 higher than 550 °C. Remaining mineral ash was transferred to acid-cleaned Teflon vials and
142 digested with HF and HNO₃. Trace element analyses were performed on an Element2 HR-ICP-
143 MS in medium resolution with Re and Rh used as internal standards, following the procedure
144 described in Kamenov et al. (2009). We measured elemental concentrations in the HF–HNO₃-
145 digested mineral material that remained after ashing. Using the LOI (organic matter) values, we
146 calculated element concentrations in the bulk sediments on a dry weight basis. Error values on
147 reported concentrations are better than ±5% for all elements except heavy rare earth elements
148 (HREE), which show errors better than ±10%.

149 The remaining sample solution, after trace element analyses, was evaporated to dryness to
150 prepare for Pb and Nd separation. The dry residue was dissolved in 1N HBr and loaded on
151 columns packed with Dowex 1X-8 resin to separate Pb for isotope analysis. The sample was
152 washed 3x with 1 ml of 1N HBr and the Pb fraction was collected in 1 ml of 3N HNO₃. The 1N

153 HBr wash was collected for subsequent Nd separation, as Nd is not adsorbed on the Dowex
154 resin. Nd was further purified for isotope analysis following standard chromatographic methods.
155 Pb and Nd isotopes were determined on a “Nu Plasma” MC-ICP-MS, following methods
156 described in Kamenov et al. (2009). The reported Nd isotopic compositions are relative to JNdi-1
157 $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.512115 (\pm 0.000017, 2\sigma)$, or $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}} = -10.2 (\pm 0.3, 2\sigma)$. Pb isotopic compositions
158 were also determined on the MC-ICP-MS, with Tl normalization. The Pb isotope data for NBS
159 981 (n=3) analyzed together with the samples are as follows: $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 16.935 (\pm 0.0020, 2\sigma)$,
160 $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 15.487 (\pm 0.0025, 2\sigma)$, $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 36.688 (\pm 0.0064, 2\sigma)$. These values are within
161 error of the long-term NBS 981 (n>100) for the UF lab: $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 16.937 (\pm 0.004, 2\sigma)$,
162 $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 15.490 (\pm 0.004, 2\sigma)$, $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 36.695 (\pm 0.009, 2\sigma)$.

163 **Results**

164 The eleven radiocarbon dates on bulk sediment are in stratigraphic order with no age
165 reversals (Table 1, Fig. 2). The entire sediment record has an average sedimentation rate around
166 0.166 cm/yr (Giraldo-Giraldo et al. 2017). Nine of the eleven samples yielded dates younger than
167 2,000 yr BP (Table 1, Fig 2). Trace element data for the analyzed sediment, lapilli, and local
168 andesite samples are presented in the supplementary on-line material (SOM). Loss on ignition
169 (LOI), corresponding to the organic matter content in the sediments, ranged from 4.5% to 92%
170 (Table 2). This is a consequence of differential inputs of volcanic ash over time from volcanic
171 activity in the Northern Andean Volcanic (NVZ) zone. The El Triunfo mire is located in a region
172 of several active volcanoes (Northern Group Volcanoes) known to have erupted multiple times
173 over the last several thousand years (e.g., Laeger et al. 2013). In particular, the active Nevado del
174 Ruiz volcano is only around 10 kilometers to the south of the mire (Fig. 1b). Another active

175 volcano, Nevado Santa Isabel is located around 20 kilometers SSW of the mire (Giraldo-Giraldo
176 et al. 2017).

177 In order to account for variable presence of volcanic ash in the mire sediments the metal
178 concentrations are normalized to Sc. Sc is often used for normalization as it is a conservative
179 element and has no significant anthropogenic source (e.g., Krachler et al. 2003; Kamenov et al.
180 2009). Enrichment Factors (EF) for each element are calculated by dividing the normalized
181 element concentration (element/Sc) by the corresponding background concentration of the
182 element, i.e. the ratio of the element concentration to Sc concentration in the pre-anthropogenic
183 background. The pre-anthropogenic background values are based on the average values for each
184 element in the three deepest measured samples in the core. Therefore, the calculated EFs (Fig.3
185 and SOM) represent enrichment relative to the concentrations in the three deepest, presumably
186 pre-anthropogenic intervals in the core. EFs vs age plots for all elements analyzed in this work
187 are available in the SOM. Figure 3 shows the EF changes through time for several elements
188 including As, Cu, Cd, Sb, Zn, Tl, Ni, and Pb. EFs for As, Cu, Cd and Ni, show first increase
189 around 2500 years ago, whereas EFs for Zn, Sb, Tl, and Pb show first increase around 2000
190 years ago (Fig. 3). All of the elements plotted on Figure 3 show most significant EFs increase in
191 the top part of the core. The rest of the elements analyzed in this work either follow the EF trends
192 observed in Figure 3 (e.g., V, Cr, Co, Sr) or exhibit overall random EFs with depth (e.g., Li, Ga,
193 Rb, Zr, Nb, Cs, REE, Hf, Ta). Ba and Sn show clear enrichment at the top of the core (SOM).

194 Pb and Nd isotope data for the analyzed sediment samples are presented in Table 2. Pb
195 and Nd isotopic values for the local andesite sample and lapilli from five depth intervals are
196 presented in Table 3. Nd isotopes in the lapilli and andesite samples show relatively small range
197 from +1.9 to +4.5 for ϵ_{Nd} (Table 3). Similarly, Nd isotopes in the sediments show relatively

198 small ϵ_{Nd} variations, between +1.5 and +3.5, throughout the sediment column (Fig. 4). Overall,
199 the observed ϵ_{Nd} values in the sediments are similar to the lapilli, but slightly lower than the local
200 andesite sample (Tables 2 and 3 and Fig. 4). Pb isotopes in the sediment samples show overall
201 lower values than those of the local andesite and lapilli (Tables 2 and 3, Fig. 4). However, in
202 contrast to ϵ_{Nd} , the sediment Pb isotopes show a relatively wider range of values, with lowest Pb
203 isotopic values measured in the topmost layer of the core (Fig. 4, Table 2).

204 **Discussion**

205 *Natural vs anthropogenic metal contributions to the peat*

206 The metals analyzed in this work can be divided into two major groups according to their
207 EF trends with depth (age) in the mire core. Metals not typically associated with sulfide ore
208 mining and smelting, such as Li, Rb, Y, Zr, Nb, and REE, do not show particular EF trends with
209 age (SOM). These metals were not mined by humans in historical times and should reflect the
210 natural (including volcanic ash, local runoff, and long distance atmospheric dust) input to the
211 mire. In contrast, metals that tend to occur in sulfide ores that were mined by humans in the
212 archaeological past, tend to show first increase in their EFs around 2500-2000 years ago,
213 followed by significantly elevated EFs near the top of the core (Fig. 3). The top part of the core
214 clearly displays enrichments in metals that are widely used in the modern economy, such as Pb,
215 V, Ni, Cu, Zn (Fig. 3 and SOM). Such metal enrichments are commonly observed in peat
216 archives providing metal pollution records from the onset of the Industrial Revolution to modern
217 times in Europe (Krachler et al. 2003) and North America (Kamenov et al. 2009). Therefore, the
218 enrichment in the above metals in El Triunfo was most likely the result of modern regional and
219 global anthropogenic activities. It is interesting to note that Sr and Ba also show highly elevated
220 EFs in the top part of the core (SOM), which can potentially be attributed to modern construction

221 activities. For example, major changes in Sr isotopes observed in the top section in a peat core
222 from Florida were the result of modern construction activities and limestone quarrying in the
223 state (Kamenov et al. 2009). Furthermore, the El Triunfo core shows two spikes of elevated EFs
224 for Sr around 2000 and 1500 years ago (SOM). These spikes could be an indication of changes in
225 the natural dust source during these times, or alternatively they could be a result of regional or
226 intercontinental construction activities during the archaeological past.

227 In contrast to the top part of the core, the first increase in EFs around 2500-2000 years
228 ago (Fig. 3) cannot be directly attributed to anthropogenic activities only on the basis of the
229 observed EFs. The observed EFs are overall minor and could be simply a result of variations in
230 the natural input to the mire. For example, Shotyk et al. (2002) observed elevated EFs (relative to
231 average continental crust abundances) for Zn, Sb, Cu, and As, in ancient, pre-anthropogenic peat
232 layers. The enrichment in these ancient peats was attributed to natural enrichment of these
233 elements in fine fractions of soils during rock weathering (Shotyk et al. 2002). In the case of El
234 Triunfo, Pb and Nd isotopes can provide further constraints if the early minor EFs increase is due
235 to changes in the natural or anthropogenic input of metals to the sediments. The earlier episode
236 of EFs increase is also accompanied with a shift in Pb isotopes towards lower values (Figs. 3 and
237 4), indicating the appearance of a new source of Pb to the mire, and, by analogy, other metals
238 with similar geochemical behavior.

239 Volcanoes in the NVZ, where El Triunfo is located, are characterized by elevated Pb
240 isotopic ratios (e.g., $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} > 18.6$, Chiaradia and Fontbote, 2002). This is clearly the case for
241 the local El Triunfo andesite, which has a $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ value of 18.947 (Fig. 4) and the lapilli
242 ($^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ from 18.925 to 18.942, Table 3). Similarly, ore deposits in the NVZ (e.g., Ecuador
243 and Colombia) reflect the isotopic compositions of the local volcanic rocks and are characterized

244 by $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ratios higher than 18.6 (Chiaradia and Fontbote, 2002). Therefore, NVZ input,
245 either from direct volcanic ash deposition or anthropogenic, via ancient smelting of ores
246 associated with NVZ volcano-magmatic systems, would be either close or higher than 18.6.
247 Furthermore, as can be seen on Figure 2b, the local bedrock is composed of Paleocene
248 granitoids, Neogene andesites, and younger volcanic products. Therefore, any local terrigenous
249 input (e.g., via direct runoff from the surrounding area) will carry the NVZ Pb isotopic signature.
250 In addition, even ground water input to the mire would be expected to carry NVZ “volcanic” Pb
251 isotopic signature as the bedrock around and under the mire is entirely composed of volcanic
252 rocks (Fig. 1b).

253 In contrast, the Central Volcanic Zone (CVZ) in the Central Andes, located to the south
254 of NVZ, is characterized by $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ values less than 18.5 (Mamani et al, 2008). Lavas in the
255 Transition Zone (TZ) between the NVZ and CVZ are characterized by intermediate Pb isotopic
256 compositions (Fig. 4) but with $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ higher than 18.5 (Mamani et al, 2008). A number of El
257 Triunfo sediment samples deposited after 2000 BP display $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ less than 18.5, which is
258 characteristic of the CVZ lavas (Fig. 4). Therefore, natural inputs from CVZ volcanoes can
259 potentially explain the observed shift to lower Pb isotope ratios in the El Triunfo core. However,
260 although the Pb isotopes are within the range of the CVZ, the corresponding Nd isotopes in the
261 sediments do not support input from CVZ source. The CVZ lavas are characterized with much
262 lower Nd isotopes compared to the El Triunfo core (Fig. 4). CVZ lavas are characterized with
263 ϵ_{Nd} below -4, majority in the range of -6 to -10, and as low as -12, a result of incorporation of
264 Precambrian basement component in their magma source (Mamani et al. 2008). Therefore,
265 volcanic ash from CVZ cannot explain the shift towards lower Pb isotopes as there is no
266 corresponding significant shift in the ϵ_{Nd} values (Fig. 4). Instead, the El Triunfo Nd isotopes are

267 overall consistent with local NVZ input. Although the single local andesite sample analyzed in
268 this work shows $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}=4.5$ (Fig. 4), the nearby active volcanoes Santa Isabel and Cerro Machin
269 show a range in ϵ_{Nd} from 0.2 to 3.9 (Errazuriz-Henao, 2017). Furthermore, the analyzed lapilli
270 samples from the core are also within the above range and overall very similar to the sediments
271 (Table 3). Therefore, all of the sediment samples plot within the ϵ_{Nd} range expected for the
272 active volcanoes in the NVZ (Fig. 4). The decoupling between Pb and Nd isotopes indicates Pb
273 contribution from a source enriched in ore metals, but with very low REE content. This is
274 consistent with metal input due to mining and smelting of sulfide ores, possibly indicative of
275 anthropogenic influence on the El Triunfo metal record.

276 *Atmospheric transport of particulates in the region*

277 The pollen record from El Triunfo mire shows no evidence for major human activity in
278 the drainage basin during the last 4000 years (Giraldo-Giraldo et al. 2017). Deforestation in the
279 area started about 100 years ago and potato agriculture and dairy cattle ranching are the primary
280 human activities in the watershed today (Giraldo-Giraldo et al. 2017). Therefore, any pre-20th
281 century metal enrichment in the mire relative to the natural volcanic input must be a result of
282 atmospheric deposition. As discussed above, in order to explain the changes in the Pb isotopes
283 we must consider contribution from a non-local source that is not part of the NVZ. The dominant
284 atmospheric circulation in the region flows from east to west (Fig. 5) and particulates from
285 Europe and Africa can reach South America carried by the trade winds (Gangoiti et al. 2006).
286 Therefore, in addition to local inputs from South America, El Triunfo mire can potentially
287 receive dust input from Europe and/or Africa (Fig. 5). Saharan dust, however, displays fairly
288 radiogenic Pb isotopes with $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}>18.7$ (e.g., Kylander et al. 2005) and therefore cannot
289 explain the appearance of the low-radiogenic Pb in the peat record. However, 20th century

290 anthropogenic European Pb shows lower Pb isotopes, a fact used by Hamelin et al. (1989) to
291 identify European Pb in dust samples collected on Barbados from 1969 to 1987. This work
292 showed that anthropogenic pollution from Europe could be transported across the Atlantic
293 Ocean. Further evidence of European anthropogenic pollution was identified in nitrate and non-
294 sea-salt sulfate concentrations of aerosol samples from Barbados (Savoie et al. 1992 and Savoie
295 et al. 2002). Gangoiti et al. (2006) showed that European particles are more efficiently
296 transported from June to September. This is because daytime convergence of the coupled sea-
297 breeze and upslope flows at the southern coast of the Mediterranean into the Atlas Mountains,
298 and the arid landmass of North Africa, lifts the European pollution upward from over the
299 Mediterranean Sea into the Saharan Air Layer. This layer forms over the main landmass in North
300 Africa, where both the European pollutants and emissions from the Mediterranean coastal region
301 of North Africa mix with desert dust. Inter-continental transport efficiency, from cities in
302 southern Iberia into the Caribbean, ranges between 65% and 78% during the warm season
303 (Gangoiti et al., 2006). Boy and Wilcke (2008) documented African dust deposition in the
304 tropical Andean montane rainforest of Ecuador (1900-2200 m asl). The African dust plume can
305 cross the Amazon Basin from east to west, where high rates of wet deposition are expected,
306 before being washed out and accumulated in the rainforest of Ecuador. The Amazon Basin is an
307 important sink for Saharan dust, but it is possible that significant amounts of dust carrying
308 European pollution to reach the central Colombian Andean Cordillera from the Caribbean Sea
309 via a NE to SW trajectory (Fig. 5).

310 ***Recent metal increase and possibility for Pb downcore contamination or diffusion***

311 A number of metals that can be attributed to anthropogenic activities, such as Pb, V, Cr,
312 Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, As, Sr, Cd, Sn, Sb, Ba, Tl, Bi and U show EF increases in the top sediment

313 layers of the El Triunfo mire (Fig. 3 and SOM). As mentioned above, such increase in
314 anthropogenic metals is commonly observed in recent environmental records (e.g., peat,
315 sediment, and ice cores) and is attributed to human economic activities. At present, more than
316 80% of Colombia's ~48 million people live in medium- and large-size cities in the three Andean
317 Cordilleras. Manizales, a city of about 400,000 inhabitants, is the urban area closest to (~15 km
318 NW) the study site. Manizales was founded in 1848 and had an economy based on agriculture,
319 cattle and trade, with only limited industry until the 1920s. After the 1920s, an influx of revenue
320 from high international coffee prices helped create industries for textile production, cocoa
321 processing, coffee mills, newspaper publishing, the state-owned liquor company and others
322 (Rodríguez, 1993). Nevertheless, by the 1940s, manufacturing was still in early development
323 stages. The number of manufacturing companies, however, increased to 86 by 1973 (Rodríguez
324 1993), and to 808 in 2015 (regional business census). Major sectors included food, textiles,
325 publishing, wood processing, metal products, machinery and leather processing. Gasoline-based
326 transportation at the regional and national levels became dominant during the 1960s. Until the
327 beginning of the 20th century, products and people in the area moved on foot or by horse.
328 Expansion of the coffee business stimulated more efficient means of transport by the 1920s, such
329 as cable cars and railroads. Roads, however, were used mostly for regional transportation until
330 the 1940s. During the 1960s, however, railroad lines were abandoned and roads became the
331 dominant means of transportation at the regional and national level (Rodríguez, 1993). The two
332 largest cities in Colombia, Bogota (~9 million inhabitants) and Medellin (~3.5 million
333 inhabitants), are also relatively close, within 165 km of the study site. Therefore, urban
334 development and industrial activities in Colombia, leded gasoline usage, and mining and ore

335 processing, most likely contributed to the observed metal enrichments in the top layers of the El
336 Triunfo core.

337 As the highest EFs for anthropogenic metals are observed at the top part of the core, then
338 downcore diffusion of Pb may be responsible for the observed Pb concentrations and isotopic
339 changes. The lowest Pb isotopes are observed in the topmost layer (Table 2). Therefore, Pb
340 contamination downcore from this topmost material, either via diffusion or bioturbation or even
341 unintentional contamination during core collection, could be the reason for the observed isotopic
342 record. However, the observed EFs do not show gradual downcore change as would be expected
343 for diffusion (Fig. 3). In addition, it is important to note that the top most layer has the lowest Pb
344 content, only 0.2 ppm, compared to the whole El Triunfo sediment column (SOM). The low Pb
345 content is due to “dilution” by the high organic matter content (high LOI, Table 2). The analyzed
346 top four layers of the core are peat (LOI from 83.2% to 91.7%) and overall show much lower Pb
347 concentrations due to organic matter dilution compared to the lower sections (SOM). Therefore,
348 downcore diffusion or contamination from the top peat layers of the core is not a plausible
349 scenario. Furthermore, numerous studies have demonstrated that Pb is immobile in sediments
350 with high-organic content such as peat (e.g., Shotyk et al. 1996; MacKenzie et al. 1997; Weiss et
351 al. 1999; Kylander et al. 2005), which also will prevent Pb downcore migration from the top peat
352 layers.

353 The topmost peat layer of El Triunfo core shows the lowest Pb isotopes and if this Pb
354 migrated downcore we would expect to see gradual Pb isotopic change. However, as can be seen
355 on Figure 4, the Pb isotopic changes downcore are not consistent with diffusion. The top-most
356 Pb is followed by three samples showing gradual increase towards the natural Pb, then the fifth
357 sample shows again low Pb isotopes indicating anthropogenic input. Downcore after the fifth

358 sample two more samples plot in the natural Pb background region, then the following sample
359 shows low Pb isotopes indicating again anthropogenic input (Fig. 4). Some samples that were
360 deposited in historical times but show elevated Pb isotopes are a result of high volcanic ash input
361 and resultant low organic matter (e.g., samples at depths 126 cm and 192 cm with low LOI,
362 Table 2).

363 Compared in Pb isotope space, the El Triunfo Pb isotopes show very similar behavior to
364 the European Pb data (Fig. 6). The Pb isotopes extend from the natural Pb end-member with
365 highest isotope ratios to the modern anthropogenic Pb with lowest Pb isotopes in the modern top
366 layers (Fig. 6). The observed trends in Europe and El Triunfo (Fig. 6) are a result of input of
367 anthropogenic Pb, which since archaeological times has been less radiogenic than the natural Pb
368 in the regions plotted on Figure 6. This is a result of differences in time-integrated U-Th-Pb
369 systematics of the bedrock and ore mineralogy, which typically results in less-radiogenic
370 anthropogenic Pb released during mining (e.g., Kamenov and Gulson, 2014).

371 The least radiogenic Pb is always recorded in the most recent (top) layers in European
372 peat cores and this is mostly a result of leaded gasoline usage during the 20th century in Europe
373 (e.g., Shotyk et al. 1998; Kylander et al. 2005). The El Triunfo core also shows the least
374 radiogenic Pb isotopes in the top layer, which can be either a result of modern intercontinental
375 Pb input from Europe or usage of Pb gasoline additives in Colombia that were imported from
376 Europe. The Colombian state petroleum company (Ecopetrol) holds the rights to import and
377 refine gasoline in the country. In the early 1980s, Ecopetrol reduced the lead content in gasoline
378 from 0.84 g/liter to 0.04 g/liter, and Pb was eliminated in January 1991 (Onursal and Gautam,
379 1997). No information is readily available to trace the origin of Pb used in the Colombian
380 gasoline before the complete ban in 1991. Modern human teeth from Chile and Uruguay show

381 low Pb isotopes, similar to modern European teeth, indicating that European Pb additives were
382 likely used extensively in the South American leaded gasoline (Kamenov and Gulson, 2014).
383 Furthermore, aerosols collected over South America in 1994-1999 showed relatively low Pb
384 isotopes, also likely due to usage of alkyllead from a common supplier (Böllhofer and Rosman,
385 2000). However, it is not clear if European Pb additives were used in Colombian gasoline.
386 Aerosol sample from Colombia (Bogota) collected in October 1997 showed $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}=18.5$
387 (Böllhofer and Rosman, 2000), but this is after the leaded gasoline ban in the country. Therefore,
388 at this point we cannot conclude if the Pb isotopic signature in the top-most layer was due to
389 local usage of Pb additives imported from Europe, or was a result of long-distance transport of
390 anthropogenic Pb from Europe.

391 *Intercontinental origin of the metal enrichment*

392 From the available environmental archives for South America only the Pb record from
393 the Tierra del Fuego peat core shows a conspicuous change towards lower Pb isotope ratios
394 around 2000 years ago, indicating Pb incorporation from an unknown source (Vleeschouwer et
395 al. 2014). The Pb isotopic shift around 2000 years ago at Tierra del Fuego could be due to long-
396 distance transport of Pb and other anthropogenic metals from Europe or it could be a result of a
397 discrete period of anthropogenic Pb extraction in South America. Although both El Triunfo and
398 Tierra del Fuego core records show shift to lower Pb isotope values around 2000 years ago, it is
399 somewhat unlikely that the two cores recorded a South American event, given the predominant
400 atmospheric currents in the region (Fig. 5). Based on the above discussion of atmospheric input,
401 it is possible that the observed changes in EFs and Pb isotopes around 2000 years ago in both
402 cores were due to historical anthropogenic activities in Europe. This early period of increases in
403 EFs in the El Triunfo mire (Fig. 3) is overall synchronous with the Roman Empire period in

404 Europe. Pb pollution from the Roman Empire has been identified in lake sediments and peat
405 records across Europe (e.g., Shotyk et al. 1996; Shotyk et al. 1998; Kylander et al. 2005;
406 Martinez-Cortizas et al. 2002; Martinez-Cortizas et al. 2013) and as far away as Greenland
407 (Hong et al., 1994) and the Canadian Arctic (Zheng et al. 2007). Roman Pb pollution has not yet
408 been reported in the northern Neotropics, despite the potential for long-range transport of dust by
409 atmospheric currents to the Northern Hemisphere Neotropics (Gangoiti et al. 2006). Large
410 quantities of Pb were delivered to the atmosphere as a by-product of early silver smelting by the
411 Greeks and Romans. About 80,000–100,000 tons of Pb were produced annually during the peak
412 of the Roman Empire, about 2000 years ago (Settle and Patterson, 1980; Nriagu, 1983, 1996).
413 Mining occurred primarily in Spain, and to a lesser extent, in other parts of Europe (e.g.,
414 Kylander et al. 2005). In Figure 6, the El Triunfo Pb isotope data are compared to Spanish ore
415 deposits and peat records from Spain (Kylander et al. 2005) and Switzerland (Shotyk et al.
416 2002). The linear trends in the Spanish and Swiss records are due to mixing between the regional
417 natural Pb end-member and variable contributions from modern and ancient anthropogenic Pb.
418 Note that the Tierra del Fuego peat record did not include ^{204}Pb measurements and therefore, it
419 cannot be compared to the high-precision Pb isotope data plotted on Figure 6. Although all three
420 Pb isotope records show similar trends in Pb isotope space, El Triunfo Pb data plot at relatively
421 lower $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ for given $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ compared to Spanish peat and Spanish ore deposits that
422 were mined in the past (Fig. 6). Furthermore, in $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ space the Spanish ore data plot at
423 overall higher values for given $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ when compared to the peat samples (Fig. 6).
424 Unfortunately, this can in part be the result of analytical artifacts during the Pb isotope analyses
425 as the Spanish ore data were obtained by TIMS, vs MC-ICP-MS data for the El Triunfo
426 sediments. TIMS Pb isotope data can be fractionated in the instrument source (filament) and this

427 analytical artifact results in steep trends, similar to the Spanish ore data plotted on Figure 6.
428 However, the Spanish peat record of Kylander et al (2005) is Pb isotopes measured by MC-ICP-
429 MS and so is directly comparable to the El Triunfo Pb data. Both records plotted on Figure 6 are
430 normalized to the same values of NBS 981. Notably, Kylander et al. (2005) data also plot at
431 lower $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ and $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ for given $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ compared to the Spain ore deposits,
432 confirming the analytical issues arising from comparing TIMS and high-precision Pb isotopes
433 measured by MC-ICP-MS. Regardless, the El Triunfo Pb data plot at even lower $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$
434 when compared to the Spanish peat record (Fig. 6). The Spanish peat location is close to the
435 Spanish ore deposits mined during the Roman Empire times. Therefore, the fact that the El
436 Triunfo Pb trend is distinct from the Spanish peat and also plots at even lower $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$
437 compared to the Spain ores (Fig. 6), indicates that the appearance of less radiogenic Pb around
438 2000 years ago in the mire (Fig. 4) is not very likely to be a result of long-distance pollution
439 related to Roman Empire anthropogenic activities.

440 ***South American origin of the metal enrichment***

441 A number of ore deposits in the Central Andes, which are characterized with relatively
442 low Pb isotope ratios, are grouped in the so called “Ore Pb isotope Province IV” (Kamenov et al.
443 2002; Macfarlane and Lechman, 2014). Ore Province IV extends from southern Peru (around
444 15°S) to southern Bolivia (around 22°S) and several deposits in Bolivia are characterized with
445 low enough $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ that they could potentially serve as the low-radiogenic Pb end-member
446 required to explain the El Triunfo core record (Fig. 7). However, as discussed above, the
447 predominant atmospheric transport in the region of the El Triunfo mire is from E to W or NE to
448 SW (Fig. 5). Therefore, metal pollution transport from ancient metal-extraction activities in the
449 Central Andes (present-day Bolivia) is not in agreement with the atmospheric circulation in the

450 region. Furthermore, the ice core record from Illimani glacier in Bolivia indicates only Cu
451 extraction from around 3000 years to around 2000 years ago, with first significant Pb pollution
452 detectable around 1500 years ago (500 AD) (Eicheler et al. 2017). El Triunfo record shows
453 elevated Cu EF around 2500 years ago (Fig. 3). Although unclear what is the Cu source for this
454 elevated EF, it is within the period of significant Cu exploitation in the Andes (Eicheler et al.
455 2017). However, it is highly unlikely that the El Triunfo core will record Pb pollution originating
456 from Bolivia, which was not simultaneously recorded in the Illimani glacier ice core. Therefore,
457 the El Triunfo Pb isotopic change predates the first known Pb pollution from the Central Andes
458 by 500 years.

459 If intercontinental and Central Andean (southern hemisphere) Pb sources are not
460 plausible Pb contributors, then the only remaining possibility is local Pb input. The earliest
461 evidence for large-scale pre-Columbian metallurgy in Colombia is dated to around AD 400
462 (Plazas and Falchetti, 1978). Furthermore, silver-rich galena deposits are rare in Colombia. Most
463 of the silver is found in native gold/electrum deposits. Although all pre-Columbian cultures in
464 Colombia worked and traded gold, the available archaeological evidence to date suggests that
465 large-scale mining activities were concentrated in only a few areas. Deposits of vein gold in
466 Buritica (Department of Antioquia) and Marmato (Department of Caldas), were heavily
467 exploited (Scott, 2012) (Fig. 1). At present Buritica is still one of the largest and most productive
468 gold mining regions in Colombia (Scott, 2012). Available Pb isotope data for Buritica and
469 Marmato mining districts (Fig. 1) show $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} > 18.9$ (Tassinari et al., 2008; Leal-Mejia,
470 2011) and therefore they cannot be the source of the low-radiogenic Pb end-member in Triunfo.

471 There are several large gold deposits (San Lucas, San Martin de Loba, and El Bagre) in
472 the Central Andean Cordillera associated with Segovia and San Martin-Norosi batholiths (Fig.

473 1a). The Quimbaya cultural region extends over present-day Buritica, but the deposits in the
474 Segovia and San Martin-Norosi batholiths are not associated with the area of influence of any
475 known pre-Hispanic cultures (Fig. 1a). Furthermore, there is no archaeological evidence to
476 support pre-Columbian exploitation of these ores. According to Leal-Mejia (2011), the earliest
477 reports for exploitation of these ores is dated to 18th century. However, the ore deposits in San
478 Lucas, San Martin de Loba, and El Bagre contain galena and show low-radiogenic Pb isotopes
479 (Fig. 7). Furthermore, the deposits are located N-NE of the El Triunfo mire (Fig. 1). Based on the
480 predominant atmospheric currents in the region (Fig. 5), we would expect to see influence on the
481 El Triunfo metal record if these deposits were mined in the past. The Pb isotope data for the
482 deposits show relatively large scatter and steep trend ($^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ for San Lucas-San Martin
483 ores), which is likely due to TIMS analytical artifacts. The top-most peat sample plots outside
484 San-Lucas-San Martin ore fields (Fig. 7), but this is 20th century anthropogenic Pb, as discussed
485 above. In addition, the 2nd lowest Pb isotope sample (depth 103 cm) also plots outside the ore
486 fields in $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ (Fig. 7). This sample was deposited during Colonial Times and can
487 potentially be affected by Pb imports, or the offset can be due to TIMS analytical artefacts.

488 Regardless that the data were obtained by TIMS (Leal-Mejia, 2011), the overall position
489 of the ores in Pb isotope space can potentially explain the core record in El Triunfo mire (Fig. 7).
490 There are a couple of possible scenarios to explain the mire record with Pb contribution from the
491 San Lucas, San Martin de Loba, and El Bagre ores. It is possible that Pb from El Bagre ores
492 contributed extensively to the record as one of the peat samples (depth 399 cm, Table 2) overlaps
493 with the least radiogenic El Bagre ore Pb (Fig. 7). Alternatively, as San Lucas-San Martin Pb is
494 less-radiogenic, the peat record could be explained by mixing of Pb from these deposits with the
495 natural Pb from the NVZ. Either scenario would indicate exploitation of the deposits around

496 2000 years ago, although no archeological evidence exist yet for such activities. Overall, given
497 the proximity of San Lucas, San Martin, and El Bagre to El Triunfo, the ores low Pb isotopes,
498 and their up wind location from the mire, it is possible that early anthropogenic pollution from
499 exploitation of gold, silver and sulfide ores from these regions created the enigmatic Pb isotopic
500 shift in the core record.

501 **Conclusions**

502 Elemental and Pb-Nd isotope analyses of a ^{14}C -dated organic-rich sediment core from the
503 paramo region of Colombia provides a record of the metal deposition during the last 4000 years
504 in northern South America. The El Triunfo mire deposit receives direct volcanic ash input due to
505 its location in the volcanically active Northern Andean Volcanic Zone. Regardless of the
506 complexity of the record due to presence of volcanic ash, the normalized to Sc trace element
507 profiles show two significant intervals of metal enrichment. The metal enrichment intervals are
508 also accompanied with pronounced shift in Pb isotopes to less radiogenic values. At the same
509 time, no significant change is observed in the Nd isotope ratios throughout the core. The
510 decoupling of Nd and Pb isotopes is indicative of introduction of anthropogenic Pb, and other
511 metals sharing similar geochemical behavior, to the mire as a result of mining of sulfide ores.
512 The predominant atmospheric currents in the region are from east to west and northeast to
513 southwest, providing pathways for long-range, intercontinental metal input from Europe and/or
514 Africa to South America. The earliest distinct shift to lower Pb isotopic ratios, around 2000 years
515 ago, is overall similar to several peat records from Europe and potentially can be explained with
516 Roman Empire Pb pollution. Detailed analysis of the El Triunfo high-precision Pb isotope data
517 show small but significant differences when compared to contemporary peat records from

518 Europe. This indicates that the anthropogenic Pb in El Triunfo is not exactly the same as the
519 anthropogenic Pb associated with the Roman Empire.

520 A number of ore deposits with low-radiogenic Pb in Bolivia (Central Andes) can
521 potentially explain the observed anthropogenic Pb in El Triunfo, but no archaeological or
522 environmental archive evidence exists for exploitation of these Pb ores around 2000 years ago.
523 Furthermore, the predominant atmospheric currents are not favorable for atmospheric particle
524 transport from Central to Northern Andes. Ore deposits in the Northern Andean Volcanic Zone
525 are overall characterized with elevated Pb isotopes and also cannot explain the appearance of the
526 low radiogenic Pb in the peat record around 2000 years ago. In addition, the earliest evidence for
527 large-scale pre-Columbian metallurgy in Colombia is dated to 400 AD (Plazas and Falchetti,
528 1978). A group of known ore deposits (San Lucas, San Martin, and El Bagre) in north-central
529 Colombia, associated with Segovia and San Martin and Norosi batholiths, contain galena with Pb
530 isotopic signatures that can potentially explain the El Triunfo record. The region is located
531 between the areas of influence of Tairona, Zenu, and Quimbaya pre-Hispanic societies in
532 Colombia, and the earliest evidence for mining in the area is dated to 18th century (Leal-Mejia,
533 2011). Although no archaeological evidence exists yet for the exploitation of these ores, the El
534 Triunfo record provides indirect evidence for significant metal exploitation around 2000 years
535 ago in northern South America.

536 The metal enrichment and Pb isotopic changes in the top part of the core are a result of
537 modern economic activities in the region. The increase in metal EFs in the top of the core for
538 some elements commonly used in modern economies is as much as 15 times higher than the
539 enrichment observed around 2000 years ago. The ecological effects of this modern metal
540 pollution on the highly vulnerable paramo ecosystems are still unknown.

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720 **Figure Captions**

721

722 Figure 1. (A) Map showing the location of the study site El Triunfo (star) located in the Central
723 Colombian Andean Cordillera, mining sites discussed in this work, and areas of influence of Pre-
724 Hispanic societies. (B) Geological map of the El Triunfo area, modified after Mosquera et al.
725 (1998).

726

727 Figure 2. Age model for the El Triunfo core.

728

729 Figure 3. Enrichment factors (EF) variations through time in El Triunfo core for (A) Arsenic, (B)
730 Copper, (C) Cadmium, (D) Antimony, (E) Zinc, (F) Thallium, (G) Nickel, and (H) Lead. Data
731 and EF calculations available in the supplementary on-line material (SOM).

732

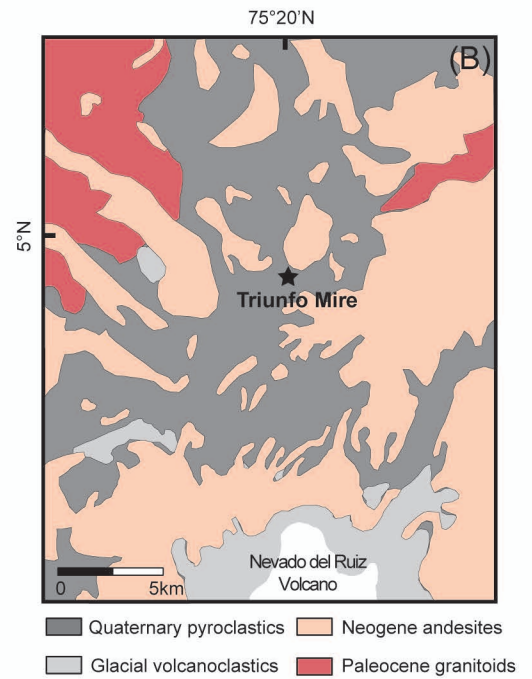
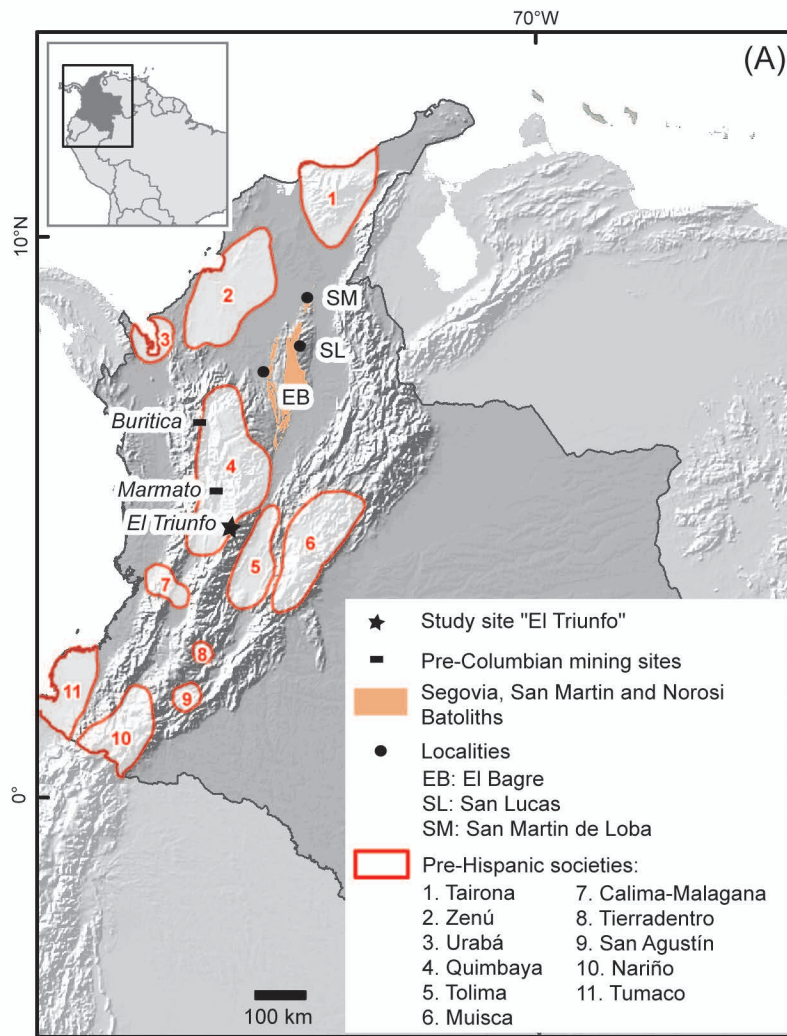
733 Figure 4. (A) Variations through time in $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ in El Triunfo core compared to ranges in
734 $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ for the Northern Volcanic Zone (NVZ), Transition Zone (TZ), and Central Volcanic
735 Zone (CVZ) lavas. Data for NVZ, CVZ, TZ from Chiaradia and Fontbonte (2002), and Mamani
736 et al. (2008). The red line represents the local Triunfo andesite $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ value. (B) Variations
737 through time in Epsilon Nd values in El Triunfo core. Data for NVZ, CVZ, TZ from Mamani et
738 al. (2008) and Errazuriz-Henao, (2017). Note that there are no significant changes in the Nd
739 isotopes throughout the core and all data are within the expected natural range for the NVZ. In
740 contrast, a number of samples between 2000 BP and present day show Pb isotopes significantly
741 lower than the NVZ Pb isotope values, suggesting anthropogenic Pb addition.

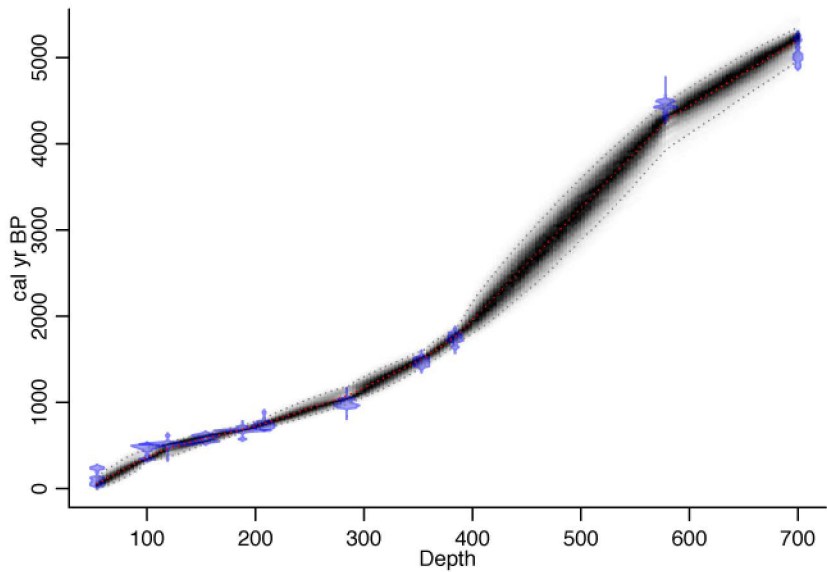
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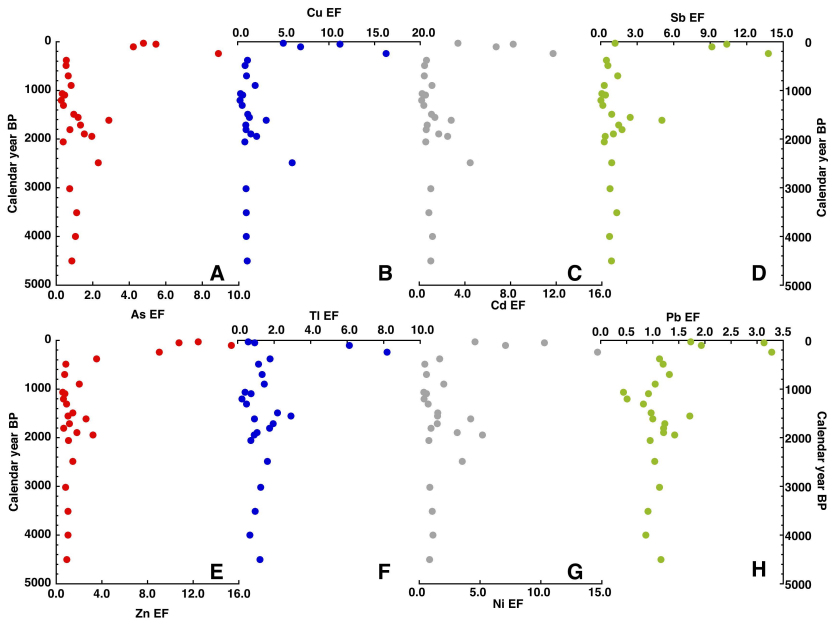
743 Figure 5. Particle burden of the tracer released from a selection of European cities (Gangoiti et
744 al. 2006), 32 days after the initial release. (A) Total atmospheric column. (B) Vertical cross
745 section, centered at constant latitude 5°N (4-6N). Particle cloud, inside the circle, corresponds to
746 the arrival of the vertical to the site (Gangoiti et al. 2006).

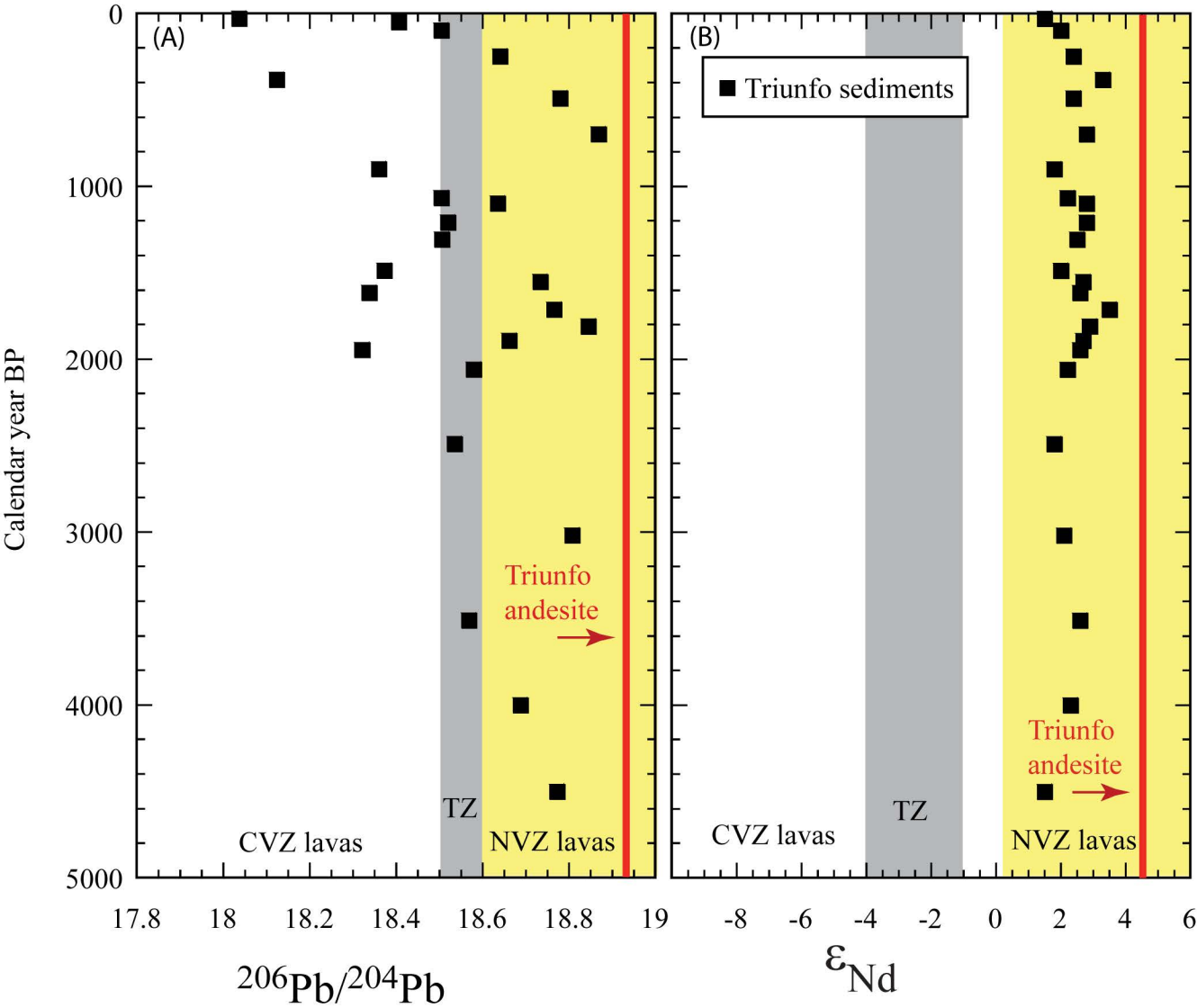
747
748 Figure 6. Pb isotope data from El Triunfo core compared to peat records from Europe and Spain
749 ore deposits. Data for Spain peat from Kylander et al. (2005), Switzerland peat from Shotyk et al.
750 (2002), and Spain ore deposits from Santos Zalduegui et al. (2004). All three records show
751 similar trends, indicating variable mixing between the natural end-member for the given region
752 and anthropogenic Pb with lower Pb isotopes. Note El Triunfo data plot at lower $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ and
753 $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ for given $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ compared to Spain ore deposits, for more discussion see the
754 text.

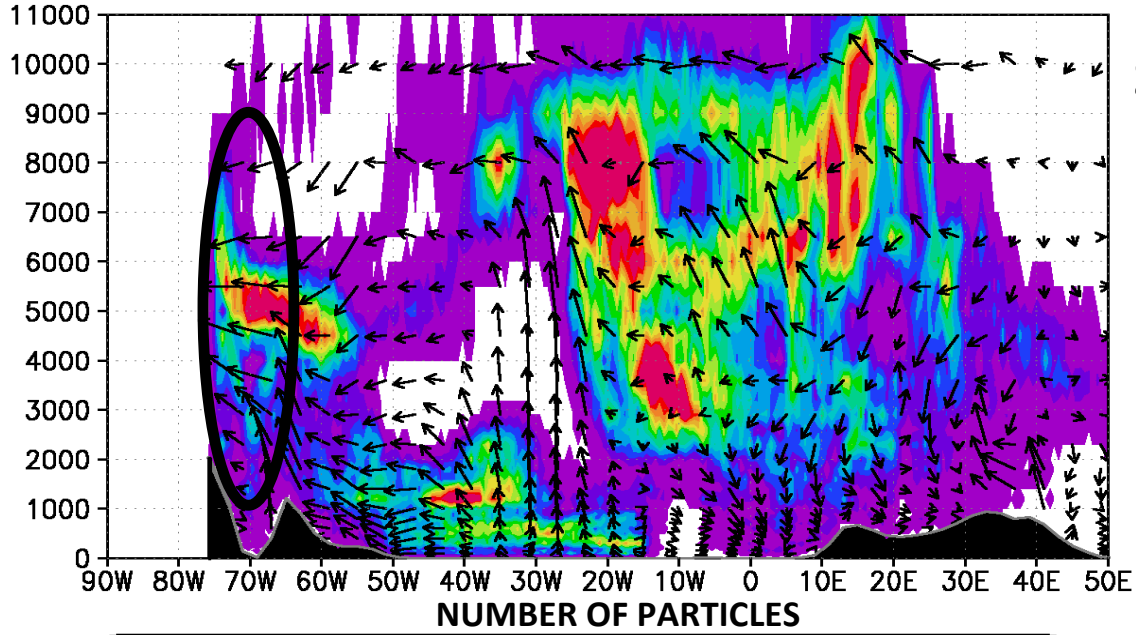
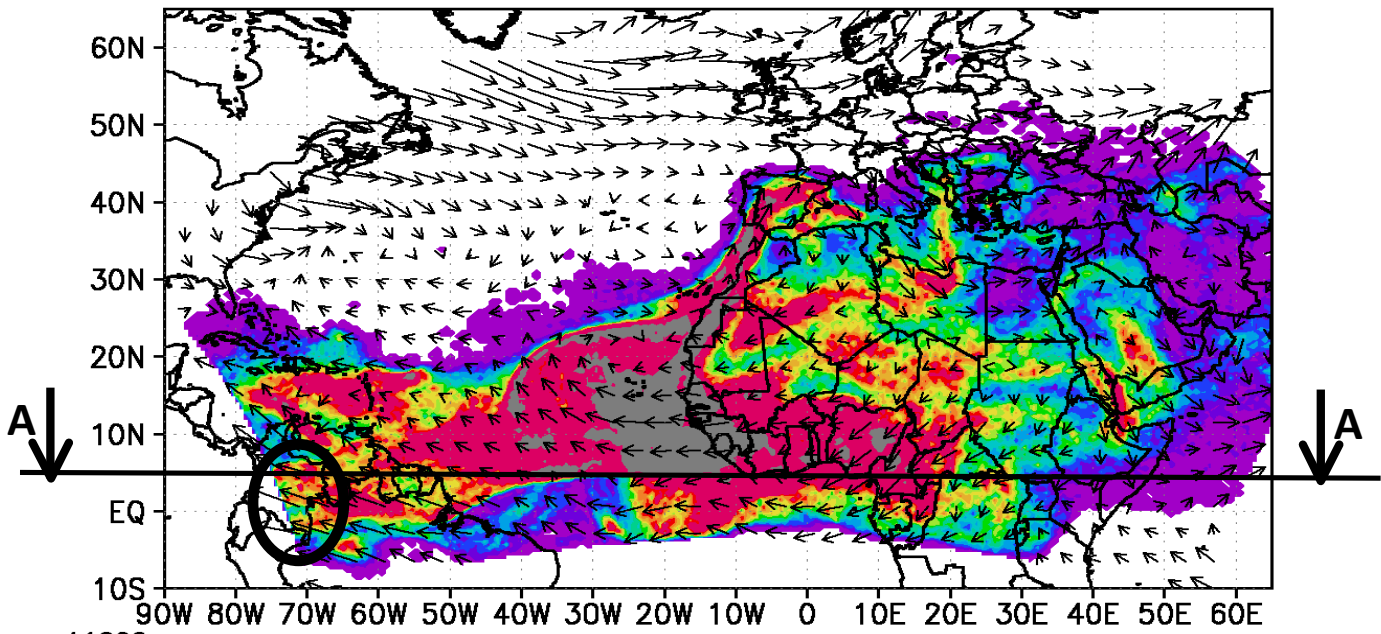
755
756 Figure 7. Pb isotope data from El Triunfo core compared to possible sources in South America.
757 Data for Santa Isabel lava from Errazuriz-Henao, (2017), Bolivian ores from Macfarlane and
758 Lechtman (2014) and Kamenov et al. (2002), and San Lucas, San Martin, and El Bagre ores from
759 Leal-Mejia (2011). Mix Col Ores shows approximately where the mixture of Pb from the two ore
760 areas will plot. Note that the mix can be anywhere in between the two ore regions, depending on
761 the relative contribution from each deposit, for more discussion see the text.







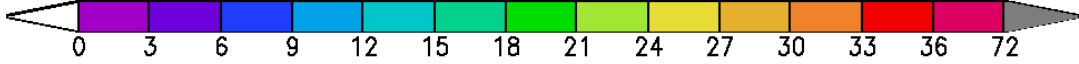


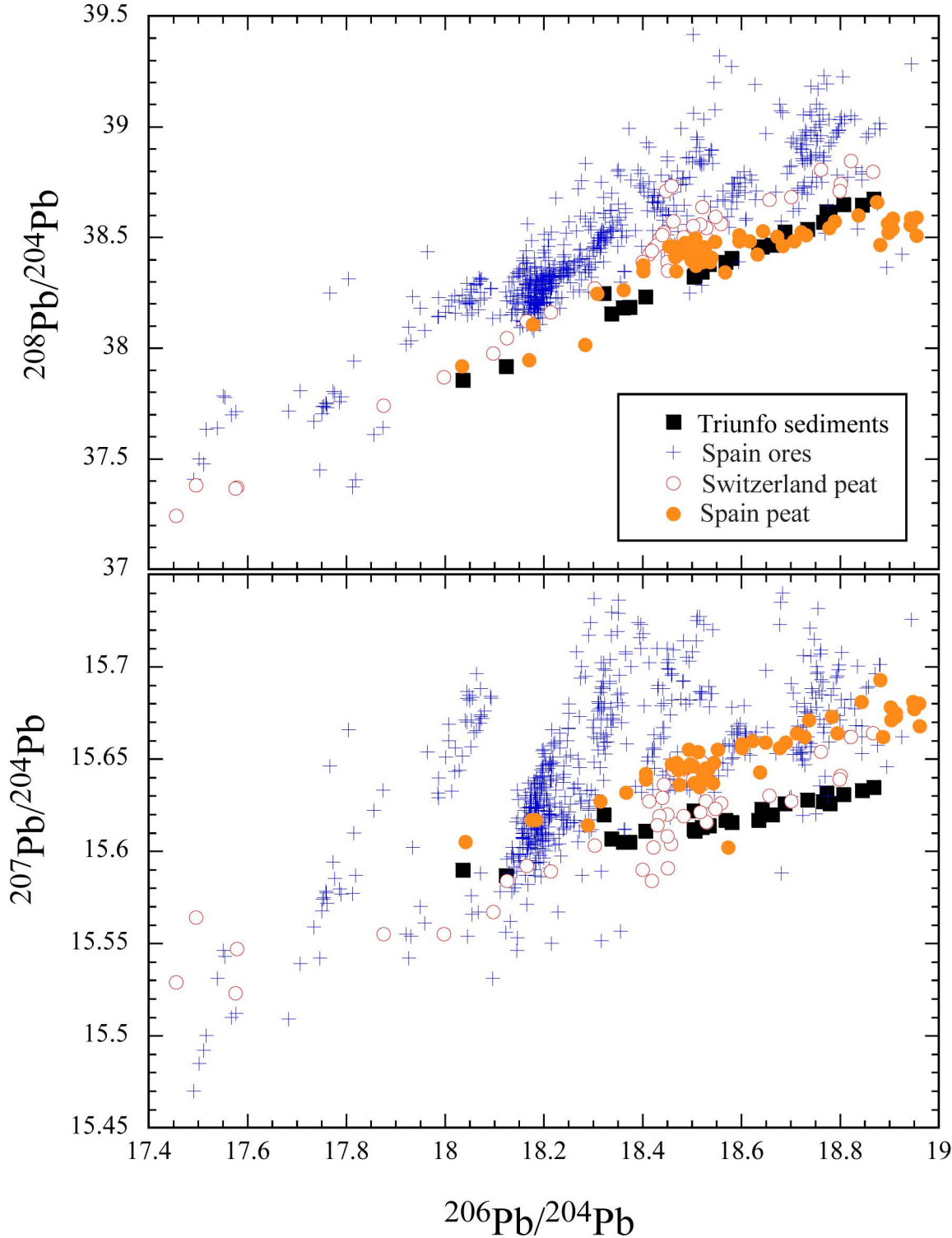


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20 ms⁻¹

**SECTION A-A
(4N-6N)**

NUMBER OF PARTICLES





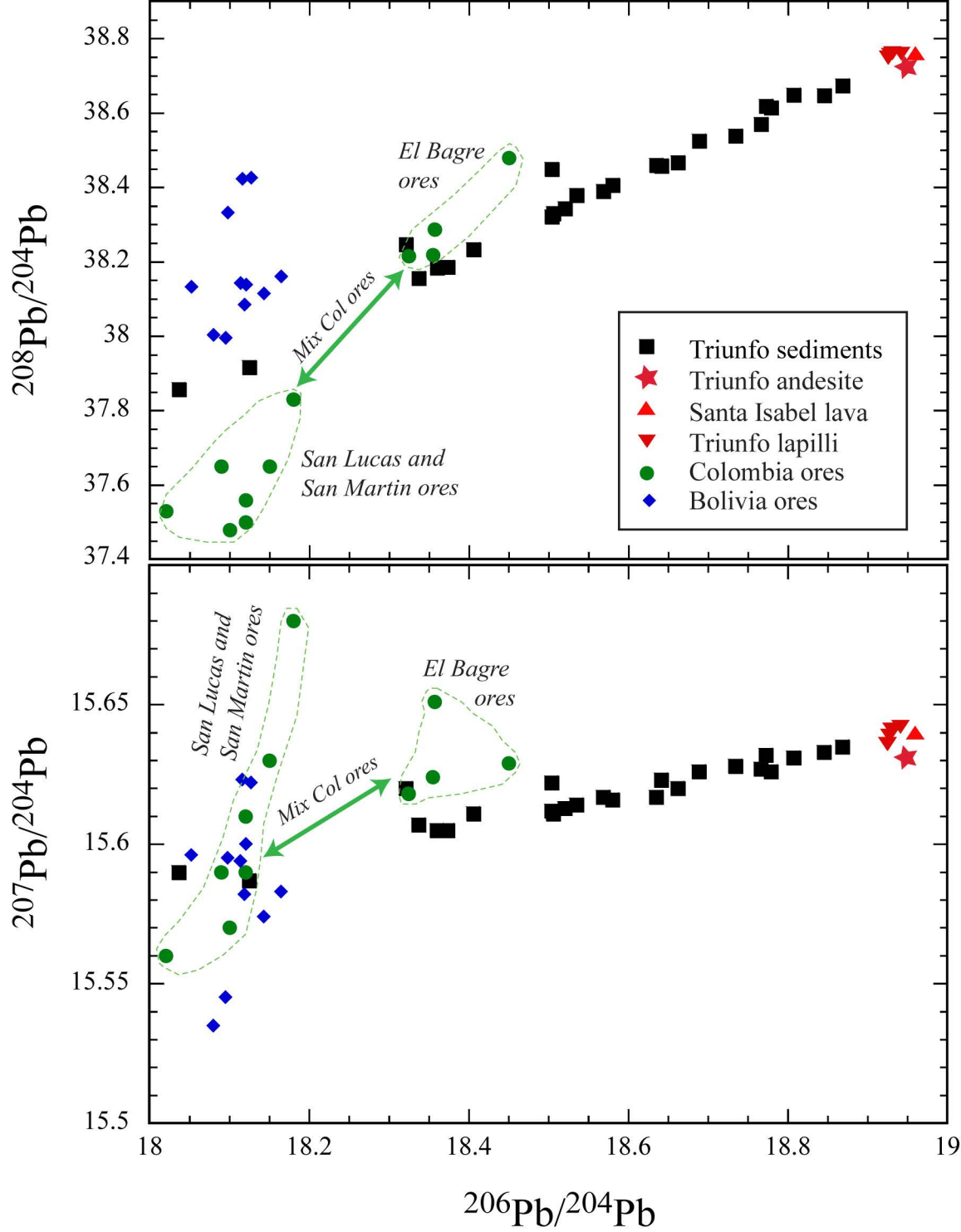


Table 1. Chronology of El Triunfo core.

Lab code	Sample	Depth	Radiocarbon Age	(+/-)	interpolated cal years BP			
					min	max	median	wt mean
368996	TRIU53-55	54	90	30	-4.6	137.4	52.2	59.7
330145	TRIU-100	100	410	30	307.5	472.6	348.6	364.7
368997	TRIU118-120	119	480	30	365.6	532.4	468.3	465.6
368998	TRIU153-155	154	570	30	527.0	636.4	588.1	582.8
369001	TRIU188-189	188	730	30	654.6	732.7	682.2	686.9
368999	TRIU208-209	208	830	30	707.7	810.8	753.3	754.7
369000	TRIU283-285	284	1070	30	974.1	1184.3	1054.7	1076.3
369002	TRIU353-354	353	1580	30	1411.0	1594.9	1499.8	1498.6
369003	TRIU384-385	384	1810	30	1661.3	1862.8	1763.7	1763.3
369004	TRIU578-579	578	3970	30	3922.3	4466.5	4279.0	4260.5
330146	TRIU-700	700	4430	40	4965.9	5354.1	5216.6	5200.4

Table 2. Depth (cm) vs weighted mean ^{14}C calibrated age, Loss on Ignition (LOI, %), Pb and Nd isotopes for analyzed samples from the El Triunfo core. Trace element data for each sample available in the on-line supplement.

Depth	Age BP	LOI	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	Eps Nd
20	30 (?)	83.2	18.036	15.590	37.857	0.512716	1.5
40	50 (?)	92.0	18.406	15.611	38.233	0.511962	-
60.0	99	90.6	18.504	15.622	38.449	0.512741	2.0
82.0	245	91.7	18.641	15.623	38.458	0.51276	2.4
103.0	382	43.8	18.124	15.587	37.917	0.512806	3.3
126.0	489	4.5	18.779	15.626	38.614	0.512763	2.4
192.0	701	7.2	18.868	15.635	38.674	0.512782	2.8
242.0	898	70.0	18.360	15.605	38.184	0.512728	1.8
282.0	1068	27.6	18.504	15.612	38.322	0.512752	2.2
288.0	1098	16.3	18.635	15.617	38.460	0.512779	2.8
306.0	1207	6.4	18.520	15.613	38.344	0.512784	2.8
322.0	1307	12.0	18.506	15.611	38.331	0.512767	2.5
351.0	1486	72.4	18.373	15.605	38.186	0.512743	2.0
360.0	1554	62.7	18.734	15.628	38.538	0.512776	2.7
367.0	1615	90.4	18.337	15.607	38.156	0.512769	2.6
378.0	1711	54.1	18.766	15.627	38.570	0.512815	3.5
388.0	1808	14.0	18.845	15.633	38.647	0.512788	2.9
395.0	1894	80.6	18.662	15.620	38.467	0.512776	2.7
399.0	1946	88.1	18.321	15.620	38.247	0.512772	2.6
408.0	2059	14.0	18.580	15.616	38.407	0.512753	2.2
441.0	2489	80.5	18.535	15.614	38.379	0.512729	1.8
482.0	3020	54.6	18.807	15.631	38.649	0.512745	2.1
520.0	3511	66.5	18.568	15.617	38.389	0.512772	2.6
558.0	4001	76.6	18.688	15.626	38.525	0.512755	2.3
608.0	4502	64.8	18.772	15.632	38.618	0.512713	1.5

Table 3. Pb and Nd isotopes for El Triunfo andesite and lapilli. Trace element data available in the on-line supplement. Lapilli were selected from ash layers, sample names represent core depth (cm).

sample	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	Eps Nd
Lapilli 135cm	18.926	15.636	38.749	0.512756	2.3
Lapilli 180cm	18.928	15.639	38.755	0.512741	2.0
Lapilli 200cm	18.942	15.642	38.759	0.512778	2.7
Lapilli 235cm	18.925	15.636	38.749	0.512738	1.9
Lapilli 270cm	18.931	15.641	38.760	0.512762	2.4
Andesite (outcrop)	18.947	15.631	38.732	0.51287	4.5