

Original Research

Effects of Environmental Factors on Arsenic Fractions in Plateau Lakeside Wetland Sediments

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Abstract

The toxicity of arsenic (As) in different polluted areas and its effects on human and animal health is a big concern all over the world. Although a wetland ecosystem is a “green filter,” this specific function would be impaired by high As content in wetland sediments. The distribution of As in wetland sediments and its linkages to environmental factors have not been fully explored. In this study, sediment samples (0-10 cm) and water samples were collected from different locations along the Yangzonghai lakeside, located in the city of Yuxi, Yunnan province of China, and were analyzed for As fractions. Results showed that As content in sediments ranged from 7.550 to 89.83 mg·kg⁻¹ (with a mean value of 16.11 mg·kg⁻¹). The As fractions were dominated by residual fraction (B4) (up to 62.67%), and the mean contents from high to low were: B4 (10.10) > oxidizable fraction (B3) (2.600) > acid extractable fraction (B1) (2.270) > reducible fraction (B2) (2.170). The distribution of As in sediments was mainly influenced by point-source pollution. In addition, the lack of significant correlation between As content and the different landscapes in the buffer zone of Yangzonghai lakeside indicated that the land use around the lakeside wetland (mainly non-point source pollution) may not have a significant impact on As fractions. Among environmental factors, As contents were positively ($p < 0.05$) correlated to dicalcium phosphate (Ca₂-P) and octacalcium phosphate (Ca₈-P). However, phosphorus distribution revealed that phosphorus in sediments was mainly caused by non-point source pollution, and thus farmland fertilizer, domestic waste, and livestock manure should be controlled. As fractions such as B1, B2, and B3 in wetland sediments were positively correlated with dissolved oxygen (DO) and redox potential (Eh), but negatively correlated to organic matter (OM), pH, and lime-type phosphorus (Ca₁₀-P) when the upstream area was dominated by agricultural lands, indicating that these parameters may affect the release of As into sediments.

Keywords: arsenic, lakeside wetland, sediments

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Introduction

Arsenic (As) widely exists in the environment due to natural processes (hot springs and volcanic activity) and man-made activities (industrial pollution, mining, and the use of pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, and phosphate fertilizer) [1-3]. Due to its toxicity, As affects the health of humans and animals around the world. It has caused considerable concerns, and the As pollution in the environment has been reported worldwide.

In the last few years numerous studies have been undertaken, mainly focusing on: As pollution characteristics [4-6], As hyper accumulator plants [7-10], effects on plant uptake and nutrition [11-14], and remediation of As contamination technology [15-16]. However, studies on As fractions in lakeside wetland sediments have seldom been reported. According to an improvement to the Community Bureau of Reference of the European Commission (BCR) sequential extraction procedure, As can be divided into four operationally defined fractions: acid extractable fraction, reducible fraction, oxidizable fraction, and residual fraction [17-18]. Lakeside wetland sediment has a significant effect on the interception of exogenous pollutants, including nutrients, through particle adsorption precipitation, plant uptake, and microbial transformation, thus serving as a natural barrier to protect lake water environments. It has been reported that As contents can be attenuated when contaminated water flows through wetland areas [19]. Arsenic contamination in wetland sediments may affect wetland ecosystem function, whereas environmental factors influence As and its fractions. For example, pH plays a great role in the As removal and adsorption process [20-21]. It is well known that As chemical reactions are mainly pH dependent, and that As has exhibited strong adsorption on sediments at pH 4.500-7.000 [22]. Organic matter (OM) has a certain influence on sediment environments, and As adsorption capacity increases as organic matter increases [23-24]. Arsenic in sediment may also be mobilized due to competitive desorption by competing anions, especially phosphorus (P) [25]. Moreover, research has found that the purification and removal of aqueous phosphate by sediments explains the difference in behavior between P and As [26]. Additionally, redox potential controls the As partitioning, solubility, and mobility [27].

In 2008 an arsenic pollution incident broke out in Yangzonghai, and thus As contamination risk is high. Since then, research has been carried out in lakeside wetlands. As concentration in sediments varied widely and ranged 54.86-193.29 mg·kg⁻¹ in October 2008 and 6.050-396.50 mg·kg⁻¹ in April 2010 [5-6]. Previous studies from our research groups have investigated the ecological risk assessment and pollution source identification in lakeside wetland [28-29]. The average of TAs concentration was 1.840-24.37 mg·kg⁻¹ in Yangzonghai in October 2015 [30]. Arsenic contamination in water has turned to sediments after its outbreak in 2008. The local government has taken

measures to carry out comprehensive treatments for pollution sources, which have been controlled now. However, limited studies are available on the effects of environmental factors on arsenic fractions in lakeside sediment.

Therefore, Yangzonghai lakeside wetland was selected for this research, which mainly focused on the following points: 1) the distribution characteristics of As and P fractions under different human disturbances, 2) the effects of environmental factors (pH, OM, and P fractions in the sediment and physical indicators in the water) on As fractions, and 3) the effects of the proportion of land cover in the buffer zone on As.

Materials and Methods

Study Area

Yangzonghai lake (102°59'-103°02'E, 24°51'-24°58'N) is located in central Yunnan Province of China at an average elevation of 1,769 m. It is one of 9 plateau lakes in Yunnan Province and belongs to the Nanpanjiang River of the Pearl River Basin. The total width of Yangzonghai Lake is 2.500 km, the length from north to south is 12.70 km, the drainage area is 286 km², the lake area is 31.90 km², the catchment area is about 192 km², and the average annual water storage capacity is 569.0 million m³. Supply water mainly comes from rainfall, natural rivers (Yangzong and Qixing), an artificial river (Baiyi), and groundwater. The only outlet water through the river empties into the Nanpanjiang River. Compared with other coasts, only the southern coast of the wetland ecosystem function is relatively well-protected; hence we selected the southern coast of the lake as the study area.

Site Description

We lay out 3 transects (3 sampling points for each transect) in the lakeside wetland in the southern coast of Yangzonghai lake. The main disturbance of the first transect is agriculture mixed with rural, and the lakeside belt has a vertical lake shore length of about 80.00 m. The second transect is agriculture, and the lakeside belt has a vertical lake shore length of about 120.0 m. The third is rural, and the lakeside belt has a vertical lake shore length of about 100.0 m (Fig. 1). Along the shore to the middle of the lake, we laid out three samples in equal proportion for each transect. The sediment samples were collected on the surface (0-10 cm). Field sampling was conducted in October 2015, and January, April, and July 2016. Basic properties collected are included in Table 1. Arsenic fractions used BCR sequential extraction procedure [18], TAs (by HCl-HNO₃-HClO₄ digestion), OM (by potassium dichromate method), TP (by molybdenum blue colorimetric method), P fractions, and pH in the sediment, and DO, Eh, TDS, and pH in the water were determined [31].

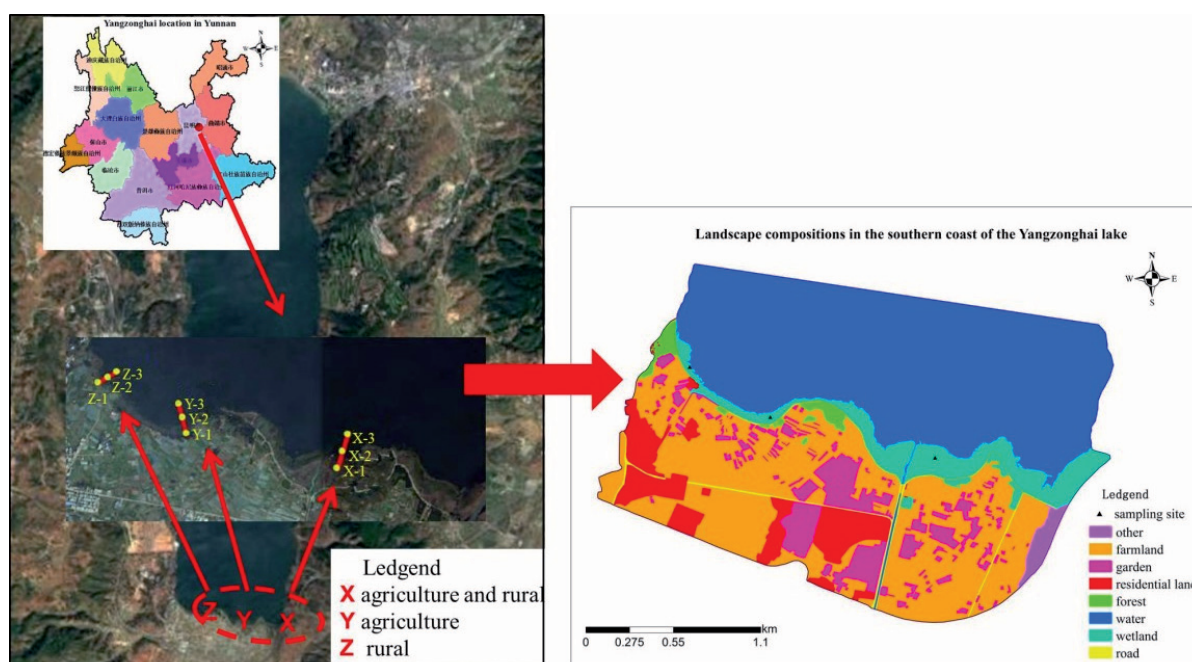


Fig. 1. Study area and distributions of sampling sites.

LANDSAT-TM images (with a resolution of 30 m) and Google Earth fine resolution images were selected for the month of February 2016. According to “land use classification” (GB/T21010-2007), the study area of topographic maps and field investigation established by the field of identification, seven land use types were classified: water, wetland, forest, road, farmland, garden, and residential land. In ArcMap10.1, taking the monitoring point of lakeside wetland as the center, we generated a buffer with a radius of 50, 100, 150, and 300 m, and obtained the land use area proportional to each buffer (Fig. 1).

Statistical Analysis

Data analysis was carried out using SPSS Version 19.0. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was implemented to test the differences in As fractions and environmental factors among three transects. Differences were considered significant when $P < 0.05$. Box diagram analysis was conducted using R.3.2.1 software. Primary component analysis (PCA) was conducted using Canoco 4.5 for Windows to show spacial distribution in order to identify the pollution sources of As and P. By explaining the correlation among a large number of variables, it is possible to reduce the dimension of the data set without losing much information [32]. In addition, Spearman correlation coefficients and redundancy analyses (RDA) were performed to identify the relationships between the concentrations of As fractions and environmental factors. Before undertaking the RDA, the $\log(x+1)$ transformation of all the data was performed to meet the data normality assumptions.

Results and Discussion

Distributions of Arsenic and Phosphorus Fractions

Overall Spatial Distributions in Different Transects

PCA analysis was performed to assess the relationship between the parameters associated with the three transects and the spatial distribution patterns of the sampling sites. The factor loading scores in biplots (Fig. 2) showed a clear separation among the sampling sites collected on three transects. In Fig. 2a), three main groups can be clearly identified. The PC1 and PC2 loading plot contributed 44.10 and 27.80% of the explained variance, respectively (Fig. 2a). The group was identified in transects 1-3. Transect 1 was clustered on the right side of the graph, transect 2 was clustered on the lower left quadrant, and transect 3 was clustered on the upper left quadrant. Based on the above analysis, there were obvious differences in the three transects. TP, Al-P, DTP, and calcium-bound phosphorus accumulated to a greater extent on transect 1, and Fe-P accumulated to a greater extent on transect 3. Different human interferences played important roles in shaping the spatial distribution patterns of P the middle of a lake fractions in these transects. Sites 15, 18, and 24 were in direction sampling, which failed to be grouped into transect 2 but were grouped in transect 3. Sites 31 and 32 failed to be grouped into transect 3 but were grouped in transect 2. This result was likely related to the spatial heterogeneity of the different human interferences and variations in the environmental conditions because

Table 1. Indicator description.

Sediment arsenic	Index	Description	Unit
	TAs	Total arsenic	mg·kg ⁻¹
	B1	Acid-extractable fraction	mg·kg ⁻¹
	B2	Reducible fraction	mg·kg ⁻¹
	B3	Oxidizable fraction	mg·kg ⁻¹
	B4	Residual fraction	mg·kg ⁻¹
Environmental factors	Index	Description	Unit
Water	pH	—	—
	DO	Dissolved oxygen	mg·L ⁻¹
	Eh	Redox potential	mV
	TSS	Conductivity in the water	us·cm ⁻¹
Sediment	pH	—	—
	OM	Organic matter	mg·kg ⁻¹
	TP	Total phosphorus	mg·kg ⁻¹
	DTP	Dissolved total phosphorus	mg·kg ⁻¹
	Ca ₂ -P	Dicalcium phosphate	mg·kg ⁻¹
	Ca ₈ -P	Octacalcium phosphate	mg·kg ⁻¹
	Al-P	Aluminum-bound phosphorus	mg·kg ⁻¹
	Fe-P	Iron-bound phosphorus	mg·kg ⁻¹
	O-P	Occluded phosphorus	mg·kg ⁻¹
	Ca ₁₀ -P	Lime-type phosphorus	mg·kg ⁻¹

these factors could affect the distribution of P fractions. Therefore, P pollution load is mainly caused by non-point source pollution, and reached 34.53 t in the south of Yangzonghai basin, where livestock and rural life were the main sources of phosphorus pollution [33].

Fig. 2b) explained 83.1% of the total variance by axes (components) 1 and 2. Transects 2 and 3 were clustered original points and, therefore, As pollution is mainly caused by point sources. Site 7 failed to be grouped in all three transects. Zhang [5] found that 82.68% of As pollution was contributed by human activities in Yangzonghai, and P fertilizer plant on the south bank made the greatest contribution to As accumulation in Yangzonghai lake.

Distributions for Each Specific Parameter in Different Transects

The distribution of arsenic and environmental factors along the lakeside wetland is shown in Fig. 3. TAs in sediments ranged 7.550-89.83 mg·kg⁻¹ in transect 1; transect 2 ranged 9.820-15.43 mg·kg⁻¹; and transect 3 ranged 7.620-17.48 mg·kg⁻¹. The average values are 22.75, 12.53, and 13.05 mg·kg⁻¹, respectively. B1 and B3 initially decreased and then increased with the different transects; however, B2 and B4 showed a decreasing trend with the three transects. Moreover, there are no obvious differences in concentrations of As fractions among different transects ($P>0.05$).

TP in sediments ranged 875.0-1,325.3 mg·kg⁻¹ in transect 1; transect 2 ranged 177.3-454.34 mg·kg⁻¹, which showed a substantial decline; and transect 3 ranged 189.2-582.6 mg·kg⁻¹. The average values of transects 1-3 were 1,034.6, 300.9, and 303.0 mg·kg⁻¹, respectively. TP contents of transect 1 were the highest, which were significantly different from that of the other two transects ($P<0.001$). On the other hand, the changes of

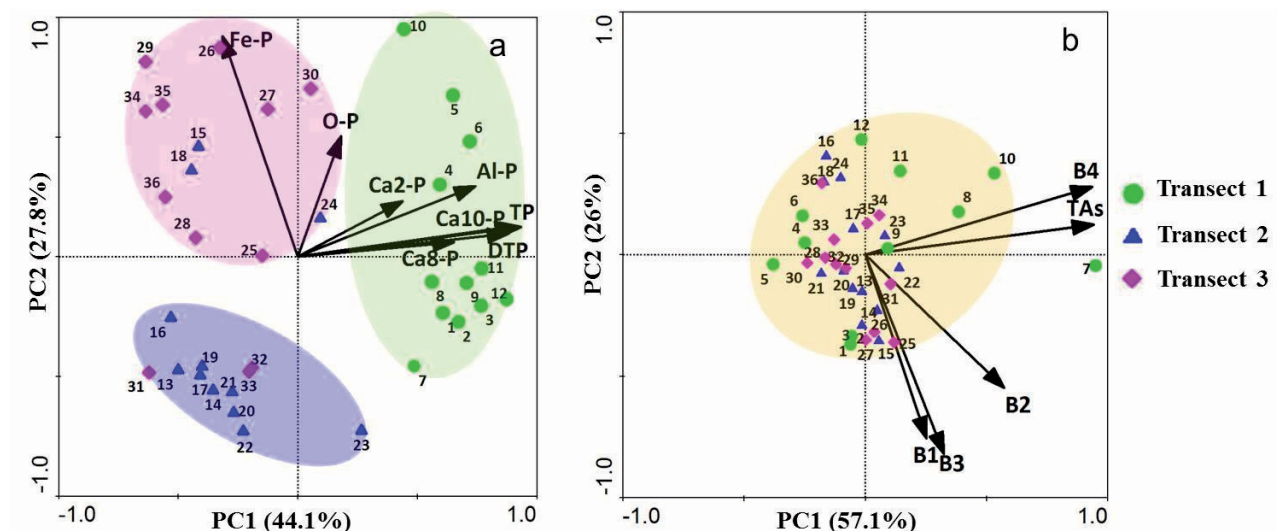


Fig. 2. Principal component analysis in three sampling transects.

Note: Phosphorus fractions a) and arsenic fractions b) of the principal component analysis in three sampling transects.

DTP, Al-P, and Ca₁₀-P in sediment were similar to TP. The content of transect 1 was significantly higher than that of the other two transects ($P < 0.001$). The average values described above are displayed in Table 2. The change of Ca₈-P with the three transects showed a significant initial decrease, followed by a slight increase ($P < 0.01$); Fe-P also initially decreased before increasing significantly ($P < 0.05$). The average values of pH in the sediments were 7.970, 8.040, and 8.030 in the three

transects, respectively. There were no significant differences among these three pH averages. In line with pH, the average values of OM were 24.03, 19.93, and 28.49 mg·kg⁻¹ for transects 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Arsenic was the case with the variation of pH in sediments, there were no significant differences in pH, DO, TDS, and Eh among the three transects (Fig. 3 and Table 2).

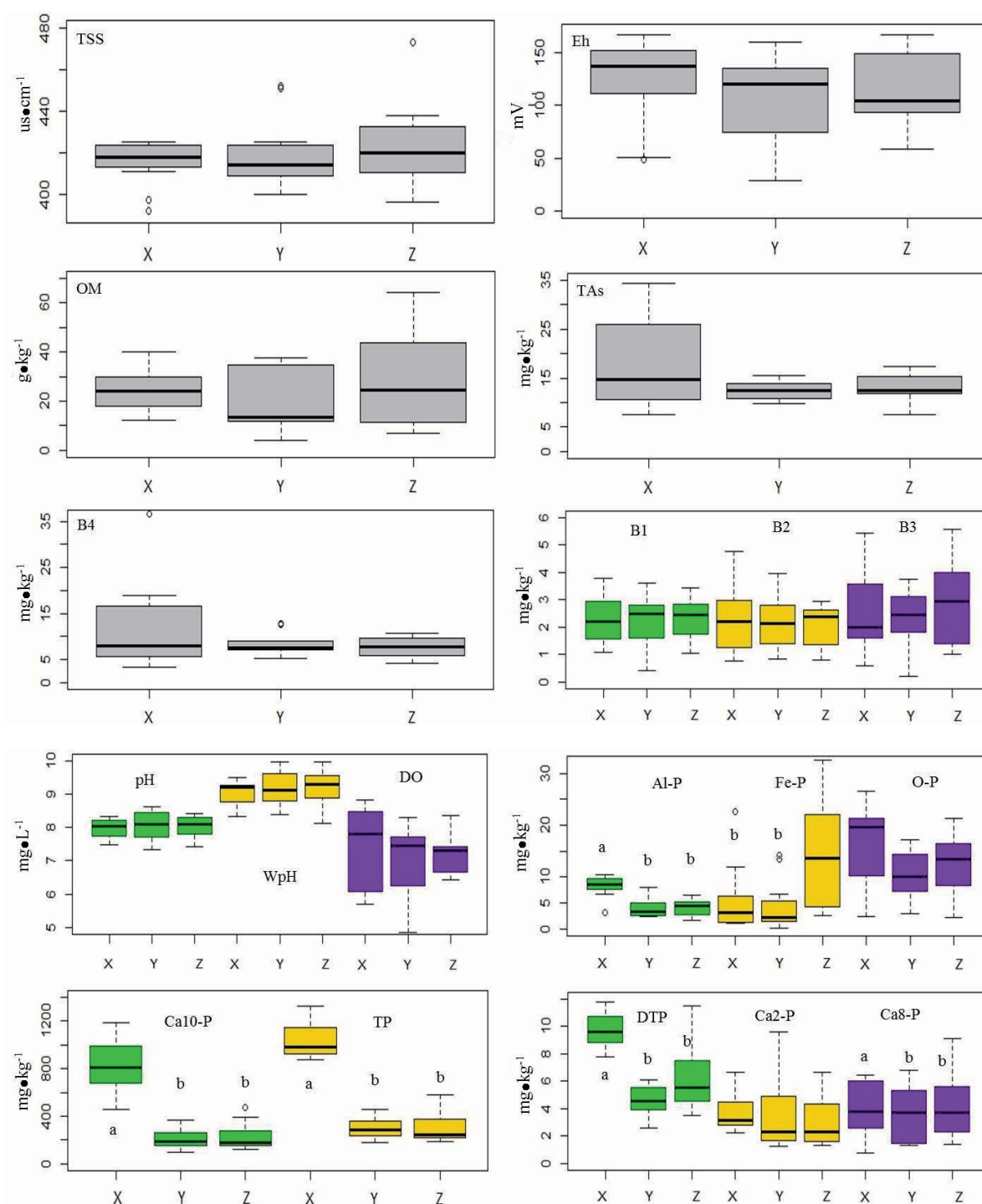


Fig. 3. Changes in arsenic and phosphorus fractions in sediments.

Note: The different letters (a, b, and c) represent significant differences ($P < 0.05$) in three sampling transects.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics in three sampling transects.

Sediment arsenic	index	Transect 1					Transect 2					Transect 3				
		Mean	S.D.	Min	Max		Mean	S.D.	Min	Max		Mean	S.D.	Min	Max	
	TAs	22.75	22.86	7.550	89.83		12.53	1.780	9.820	15.43		13.05	2.780	7.620	17.48	
	B1	2.290	0.8400	1.090	3.770		2.190	0.910	0.430	3.620		2.340	0.7800	1.060	3.450	
	B2	2.270	1.150	0.7700	4.780		2.150	0.940	0.850	3.960		2.080	0.7900	0.8100	2.950	
	B3	2.540	1.410	0.6100	5.430		2.400	1.010	0.220	3.750		2.850	1.540	1.010	5.570	
	B4	14.23	14.22	3.350	48.72		8.370	2.270	5.280	12.91		7.690	2.240	4.150	10.67	
Environmental factors	index	Mean	S.D.	Min	Max		Mean	S.D.	Min	Max		Mean	S.D.	Min	Max	
Water	pH	9.070	0.3300	8.330	9.490		9.200	0.530	8.380	9.970		9.160	0.5800	8.120	9.970	
	DO	7.450	1.240	5.710	8.840		7.060	1.010	4.850	8.300		7.190	0.5300	6.440	8.350	
	Eh	124.0	38.97	48.70	167.4		107.0	43.37	29.00	159.9		112.7	34.96	59.00	167.4	
	TSS	415.5	10.72	392.0	425.0		419.6	16.46	400.0	452.0		422.8	19.97	396.0	473.0	
Sediment	pH	7.970	0.310	7.490	8.340		8.040	0.4500	7.340	8.620		8.030	0.3400	7.410	8.420	
	OM	24.03	7.980	12.20	40.130		19.93	12.36	4.170	37.43		28.49	19.85	6.880	64.29	
	TP	1034.6	146.2	875.0	1325.3		300.9	82.70	177.3	454.4		303.0	124.9	189.2	582.6	
	DTP	9.760	1.190	7.790	11.77		3.680	1.330	2.220	6.680		3.980	1.950	0.7400	6.430	
	Ca ₂ -P	4.590	1.080	2.550	6.110		3.530	2.870	1.250	9.580		3.640	2.080	1.300	6.790	
	Ca ₈ -P	6.330	2.610	3.490	11.55		3.000	1.780	1.300	6.660		4.290	2.610	1.400	9.130	
	Al-P	8.360	1.990	3.160	10.45		4.130	1.980	2.410	7.990		4.110	1.610	1.590	6.470	
	Fe-P	5.380	6.330	1.000	22.71		4.210	4.790	0.2300	14.14		14.600	10.88	2.650	32.63	
	O-P	16.42	8.480	2.350	26.54		10.64	4.710	2.880	17.17		12.46	6.210	2.250	21.28	
	Ca ₁₀ -P	816.1	218.2	455.9	1187.8		207.0	79.56	99.81	370.7		222.6	111.2	118.4	474.0	

Table 3. Spearman correlations between pH, OM, and P fractions and arsenic fractions (n = 12).

Arsenic fractions	Transect 1	Transect 2	Transect3
TAs	pH -0.6830*, B4 0.9370**	Ca ₂ -P 0.6710*, Ca ₈ -P 0.5800*, B4 0.5800*	TP -0.8040**, WpH 0.5940*
B1	Ca ₁₀ -P -0.7130**, OM -0.6220*, DO 0.8480**, OM, -0.6220*, Eh 0.6870*, B2 0.6220*, B3 0.8530**	OM -0.8180**, B2 0.8950**	B2 0.6920*
B2	WpH 0.7270**, DO 0.6340*, Eh 0.5850*, B3 0.5870*	OM -0.8110**, DO 0.6010*, B3 0.6080*	Fe-P -0.5870*, pH -0.6640*, pH 0.6080*
B3	Ca ₁₀ -P -0.7480**, DO 0.8440**, Eh 0.6060*	B4 0.6360*	DTP 0.8050**, Ca ₈ -P 0.6570*, O-P 0.6640*, OM 0.7620**, Eh -0.6220*
B4	pH -0.7250**	DTP 0.7410**, Ca ₂ -P 0.8040**, Al-P 0.6080*	DTP -0.6080*

Note: Only significant correlations are listed. **Significance at the 0.01 probability level. * Significance at the 0.05 probability level.

Effects of Environmental Factors on Arsenic Fractions

Spearman Analysis of Environmental Factors and Arsenic Fractions

Correlation analyses between environmental factors and As fractions are shown in Table 3. TAs was positively and significantly correlated to Ca₂-P and Ca₈-P ($P < 0.5$), but negatively and significantly correlated to TP ($P < 0.01$). Eh was positively correlated to B1, B2, and B3 on transects 1 and 2, while negatively correlated to B3 on transect 3. The change of As fractions easily occurs in the surface sediments of the redox conditions, resulting in rapid mobilization of As [34]. B1 was negatively related to OM in transects 1 and 2, while positively and significantly correlated to OM on transect 3 ($P < 0.01$). The occurrence of higher concentrations of As with increasing organic matter contents is possibly due to the formation of organ-arsenic complexes [35]. B1, B2, and B3 were positively related to DO and Eh in transect 3. TAs and B4 were negatively related to pH.

Phosphorus pollution is derived mainly from runoff from the catchment, soil erosion, livestock, and rural domestic sewage [36]. The upstream of transect 1 consisted of Hai Yan village plus farmland. Ca₁₀-P, Al-P, and O-P were identified as the most important variables in each transect, indicating that due to the presence of arable lands, considerable amounts of fertilizer and nutrients as well as pesticides are being used in the study area.

The upstream of transect 2 is comprised of agricultural land, with agricultural non-point sources being the main cause of pollution. P was mainly derived from the application of phosphorus-fertilizers and organic phosphorus pesticides in agriculture [37]. Agricultural activities significantly contribute to the trace metal status of agroecosystems, which includes the application of pesticides, mineral fertilizers, fertilizer, and sewage sludge [38]. At the same time,

excessive application of fertilizer nutrients can result in environmental pollution [39]. The upstream of transect 3 was Tangeying village, whose main pollution sources were rural domestic sewage. Rural waste discharge – including domestic sewage and livestock manure – significantly influences phosphorus pollution load in the wetland [33]. The desorption of As was considered to play a key role in the competition for P. Phosphate shares similar physiochemical properties with inorganic As (arsenate in particular), likely producing potentially competing effects on the retention of As by sediments [40]. At the same time, As fractions may change, an aspect that requires further study. On the other hand, As contamination is derived primarily from the phosphorus fertilizer plant located in Yangzongzhen on the south bank [5].

Livestock manure can be a valuable resource for farmers to provide nutrients, improve soil structure, increase vegetation coverage, and reduce erosion potential [39]. Therefore, further study is needed to investigate how agricultural pollution can be reduced while maximizing waste from waste.

Redundancy Analysis of Environmental Factors and Arsenic Fractions

Table 4 shows the dominant environmental factors with the greatest explanatory power on each transect. Ca₁₀-P, Al-P, and O-P were the most important variables and therefore were determined in each transect. TP, DTP, Fe-P, and pH appeared to be more related to the As fractions in transects 1 and 3. OM, DO, and pH value in the water were identified as the dominant variables in transects 2 and 3. DO and pH value in water, and Ca₂-P were identified as the dominant variables in transect 1. Eh was only identified in transect 2. Arsenic opposed to the front, Ca₈-P and TDS were identified in transects 1 and 2. In each transect, the relationship between the dominant environmental factors and As fractions in the sediment variables is shown in Fig. 4. TAs was positively

Table 4. Dominant environmental factors with explanatory power in 3 sampling transects based on redundancy analyses.

Different human disturbance	Dominant variable	Single factor explained variance (%)	Proportion of total explained variance (%)	P-value
Transect 1	pH	43.10	43.10	0.01000
	Ca₁₀-P	27.20	70.20	0.0020000
	TDS	10.30	80.60	0.0060000
	Al-P	4.100	84.60	0.1520
	O-P	4.200	88.90	0.1040
	Fe-P	2.900	91.80	0.2060
	Ca ₈ -P	3.000	94.80	0.1740
	Ca ₂ -P	2.300	97.10	0.1920
	TP	1.900	99.00	0.1080
	DTP	0.700	99.70	0.3060
Transect 2	OM	26.80	26.80	0.01200
	Al-P	16.30	43.20	0.07200
	Ca₁₀-P	16.70	59.80	0.04200
	TP	7.000	66.90	0.2260
	DO	9.200	76.10	0.1680
	TDS	3.200	79.30	0.4680
	WpH	2.800	82.10	0.5340
	Eh	3.800	86.00	0.5060
	Ca ₈ -P	4.800	90.80	0.4260
Transect 3	O-P	6.600	97.40	0.3000
	DTP	36.30	36.30	0.0080000
	pH	12.60	48.90	0.1080
	Al-P	14.30	63.20	0.04600
	O-P	12.90	76.00	0.04000
	TP	11.80	87.80	0.002000
	OM	3.200	91.00	0.1700
	Fe-P	3.600	94.60	0.0880
	DO	1.900	96.50	0.2700
	Ca ₁₀ -P	1.600	98.20	0.2420
	WpH	1.300	99.50	0.2960

and significantly correlated to pH value in water and Eh, TDS, pH value, TP, and OM. On the other hand, it had a negative relationship with various P fractions, pH value, and OM in transect 1. Contrary to transect 1, TAs had a positive correlation with various P fractions in transect 2. However, the effects of these indices on TAs were smaller than those of As fractions. Note that TP, Ca₁₀-P, and DO were negatively correlated to TAs

in each transect. Arsenic in sediments was found in the suspended colloid, which is easily extracted by alkaline aqueous solution [41] due to the fact that colloid charge varies according to the change of pH [42]. In our study, pH value in sediments was negatively correlated to TAs, B2, and B4; however, pH value in water was positively correlated to TAs and B2. Four fractions of As (B1, B2, B3, and B4) depend on the ionic environment and pH [16]. Ca₈-P was positively correlated to TAs and its fractions. P release was positively correlated to B1 [43]. On the other hand, Fe-P was positively correlated to B2. Fe oxides are a major sorbent of As in sediment [44]. Sefaur and Ashim (2013) showed that As solubility, retention, and release in submerged soil was significantly influenced by the Fe-oxide minerals [45].

In addition, soil properties such as clay content and poor crystalline, iron oxides also affect the release of As into soil solutions [46-47]. Therefore, in the future we will further study the factors affecting As fractions from the aspects of soil properties, clay content, and so on.

Effects of Land Use on Arsenic Fractions

The change of land cover indirectly affects the biological, chemical, and physical processes of the soil, and a large number of studies have shown that the land cover will significantly affect the water quality of the river or riparian zone [48]. Few studies have investigated the relationship between land cover and As fractions in lakeside wetland.

Land Use Structure in Buffer Zone

We considered the 50.00, 100.0, 150.0, and 300.0 m buffers in the lakeside wetland in order to understand the differences of the land cover types (Fig. 5). Apparently, with the expansion of the buffer zone, land use proportion generates significant differences. With the increase of the buffer distance, the value of the percentage of wetland decreases. The lowest value was 23.02% in the 300.0 m buffer zone. The proportion of farmland reached 22.80% in the 300.0 m buffer zone, showing that the existence of a large number of wetlands were developed and utilized within this area. Compared to the 100 m buffer, the proportion of the water bodies reached the maximum in the 300.0 m buffer zone, which was unsurprising. Additionally, the proportions of forest in the 50.00, 100.0, 150.0, and 300.0 m buffer zones were 0.03000, 4.440, 1.240 and 20.44%, respectively. Similar to farmland, the value of the garden proportion was highest at approximately 69.80% in the 300.0 m buffer, with the residential and road area accounting for only a very small proportion.

Effects of Land Use on Arsenic Fractions in Buffer Zone

The correlation between land use and As fractions is shown in Table 5. Wetland percentage was positively

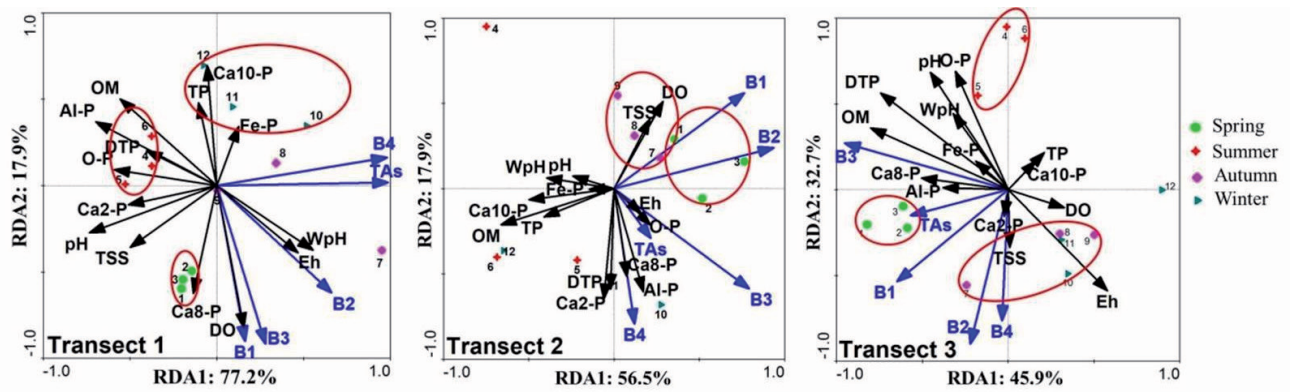


Fig. 4. Redundancy analysis showing the correlations between arsenic fractions and environment factors in three sampling transects.

correlated to B2 and B4; while, water, farmland, and garden percentages were negatively correlated to B2, which is consistent with the results of redundancy analysis (Fig. 6). Based on the RDA results, there was no correlation between buffer zone and As fractions. Riparian buffers are considered to play a major role in the process of material exchange between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, which is regarded as a land/water transition. It is acknowledged that riparian buffer landscape pattern has an important impact on aquatic ecosystems [49-50]. However, in our study, it is observed that the relationships between As fractions and land

use proportion were weaker in the buffer zone (Fig. 6). Alberti and Booth (2007) found that it was not possible to determine whether land use patterns changed with scale using the catchment landscape characteristics. The relationship between land use and As fractions in sediments is complicated, and is affected by a variety of factors [48].

In addition, compared with other land use types, wetland, water, and farmland percentages are strongly correlated to As fractions. In particular, wetland percentage was positively correlated to As fractions. From the point of view of landscape, the design of

Table 5. Correlation analysis of land use structure and arsenic fractions.

		Wetland	Water	Forest	Farmland	Road	Resident	Garden
50 m	TAs	0.6325	-0.6325	0.0000	-0.6325	0.0000		
	B1	0.5798	-0.5798	0.2739	-0.5798	0.2739		
	B2	0.7379*	-0.7379*	-0.3651	-0.7379*	-0.3651		
	B3	0.5270	-0.5270	0.0000	-0.5270	0.0000		
	B4	0.6852*	-0.6852*	0.2739	-0.6852*	0.2739		
100 m	TAs	0.3162	-0.3162	0.0000	-0.6325	0.0000	-0.5477	-0.3162
	B1	0.05270	-0.0527	0.2739	-0.5798	0.2739	-0.6390	-0.0527
	B2	0.6852*	-0.6852*	-0.3651	-0.7379*	-0.3651	-0.4564	-0.6852*
	B3	0.2635	-0.2635	0.0000	-0.5270	0.0000	-0.4564	-0.2635
	B4	0.1054	-0.1054	0.2739	-0.6852*	0.2739	-0.7303*	-0.1054
150 m	TAs	0.6352	-0.3162	0.0000	-0.3162	0.3162	-0.5477	-0.6325
	B1	0.5798	-0.0527	0.2739	-0.0527	0.5270	-0.6390	-0.5798
	B2	0.7379*	-0.6852*	-0.3651	-0.6852*	0.0527	-0.4564	-0.7379*
	B3	0.5270	-0.2635	0.0000	-0.2635	0.2635	-0.4564	-0.5270
	B4	0.6852*	-0.1054	0.2739	-0.1054	0.5798	-0.7303*	-0.6852*
300 m	TAs	0.6325	-0.3162	-0.6325	-0.3162	0.3162	-0.3162	-0.3162
	B1	0.5798	-0.5270	-0.5798	-0.0527	0.5270	-0.5270	-0.0527
	B2	0.7379*	-0.0527	-0.7379*	-0.6852*	0.0527	-0.0527	-0.6852*
	B3	0.5270	-0.2635	-0.5270	-0.2635	0.2635	-0.2635	-0.2635
	B4	0.6852*	-0.5798	-0.6852*	-0.1054	0.5798	-0.5798	-0.1054

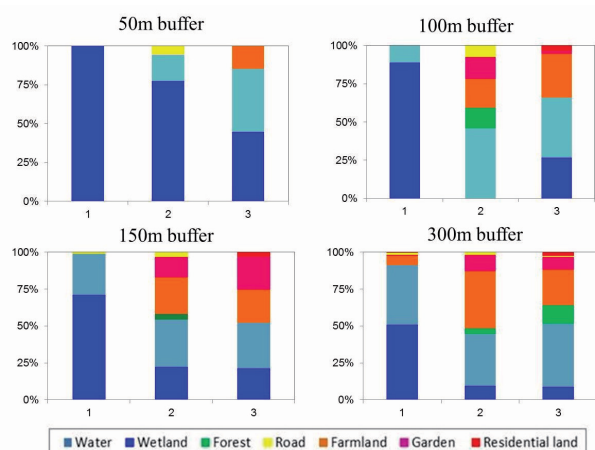


Fig. 5. Landscape compositions in Yangzonghai lakeside wetland in 50, 100, 150 and 300 m buffer zones.

buffers is not only related to the types of land use, but also depends on the spatial structure of the landscape [48]. In order to undertake a detailed design of the buffer zone in the lakeside zone, it is necessary to study the effect of land cover on the distribution of As in lakeside wetland from the perspective of the whole basin. Besides, vegetated riparian buffers as narrow as 15 m can significantly reduce impacts from sediment and nutrient runoff [51-52]. Therefore, we should strengthen the vegetation construction of lakeside wetland and design of riparian buffer zones in Yangzonghai Lake.

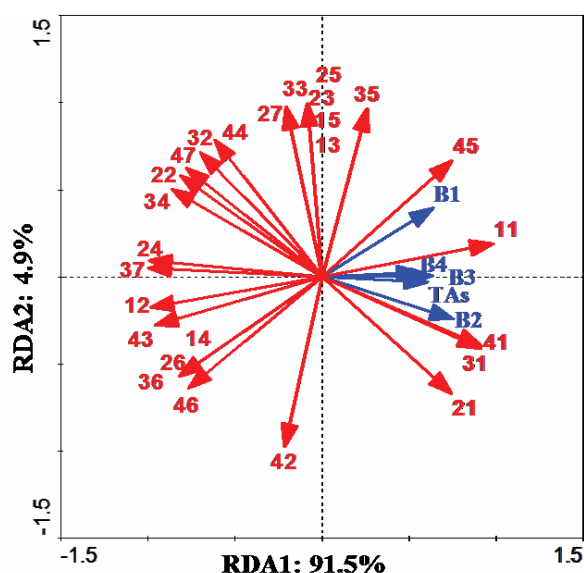


Fig. 6. Redundancy analysis for linking land use structure and arsenic fractions.

Note: The number represents the proportional land area (%) in different buffer zones. The first 1*, 2*, 3*, and 4* refer to 50, 100, 150, and 300 m buffer zones, respectively; *1, *2, *3, *4, *5, *6, and *7 refer to proportional land areas (%) of wetland, water, forest, farmland, road, residential land, and garden.

Conclusions

The difference of the fractions of As and P were caused by different human upstream disturbances. TAs in sediments under the mixed rural and agricultural disturbances is high, ranging 7.550-89.83 mg·kg⁻¹. However, for the separate agricultural and rural disturbance categories, the range was only 9.820-15.43 and 7.620-17.48 mg·kg⁻¹, respectively. Phosphorus fractions, pH, OM, and Eh had significant effects on As fractions. The proportion of land use in the buffer area of lakeside wetland did not show a significant relationship to As fractions, but the wetland proportion was positively correlated to As fractions.

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